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
This project aimed to bring a new dimension to intercivilizational dialogue between the Islamic and non-Islamic spheres by analyzing Islam from the distinctive perspective of information technology (IT). For three years the project conducted activities analyzing Islamic society and making it known in Japan, taking the kinds of impacts the IT revolution has had on Islamic society as the starting point.

The Islamic sphere is a huge community comprising a fifth of the world’s population. The project focused on discussion of the effects of the IT revolution on Islamic society, economy, culture, and so on, in three regions: the Middle East and the Arab world in the first year, Western countries in the second year, and Asia in the third and final year.

The Islamic sphere is generally regarded as backward in IT, but the nature of Islam itself does not represent a barrier to the acceptance of IT. This year’s symposium, held November 1–2, 2003, on the basis of this understanding, invited 15 experts to take part. They included Sohaimi Mohd Salleh, the officer in charge of the Multimedia Super Corridor in Malaysia’s Ministry of Finance, and Atilla Bir, a professor at Istanbul Technical University, from overseas, and Shuntaro Ito, honorary president of the International Society for Comparative Study of Civilizations, Shuji Hosaka, visiting associate professor at Waseda University’s Institute of Islamic Sciences, and Takaya Suto of the Japan Institute of International Affairs from Japan.

There was lively discussion of the impacts of the IT revolution on the Islamic sphere, and the kind of information on its potential and values the Islamic sphere can disseminate to the non-Islamic sphere. The relationship between the efficiency of information transmission and the development of Islamic civilization in Islamic history was reviewed, as was the significance of scientific, technological, mathematical, and other concepts generally believed to have originated in the West in the context of Islamic history.

The symposium’s proceedings were videotaped and are being used in university courses and public lectures. The lectures delivered at the symposium have also been compiled and distributed to Japanese embassies and consulates, research institutions, and other relevant bodies.

It is planned to further deepen understanding of Islam by continuing to make the results of this project available.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
The use and protection of traditional knowledge are among the contentious issues surrounding intellectual property rights. "Traditional knowledge" in this context refers to knowledge regarding, for example, the use of medicinal herbs handed down by indigenous people in developing countries. A mechanism for the equitable distribution of profits between the corporations in developed countries that hold patents based on such traditional knowledge and the countries that produced the traditional knowledge has become a major international problem. This project undertook case studies on the use and patenting of traditional knowledge and surveys of the legal systems regarding traditional knowledge in seven Asian countries: China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

In the first two years, case studies on traditional knowledge in the seven target countries were selected and analyzed and surveys of those countries’ legal frameworks undertaken with local research partners. In the third year, the findings were compiled and presented through papers and at symposia and other forums. Interim findings were presented at such international meetings as “Biolaw 2002: Bridging the Gap between Science and Legal Worlds,” held in Bangkok, and the annual Conference on International Intellectual Property Law and Policy, held in New York. Feedback from those forums was provided to project teams and ultimately seven papers analyzing the case studies on traditional knowledge in the seven target countries and two papers analyzing legal systems having to do with traditional knowledge were produced. These papers are to be commercially published in book form by Cambridge Agriculture Biotechnology International, an eminent publisher in this field.

This year, two two-day international symposiums were held, one in Chiang Mai and the other in Tokyo. The Consultative Meeting on Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property for Food and Agriculture, held in Chiang Mai February 27–28, 2004, was attended by about 50 people. The Workshop on Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property, and Agriculture, held in Tokyo March 1–2, 2004, was cosponsored by the grant recipient, the Intellectual Property Association of Japan, and the Japan Bioindustry Association and attended by about 150 people. Toshimitsu Arai, secretary general of the Cabinet Secretariat’s Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters, delivered the keynote address, after which a panel introduced and discussed the case studies. These activities helped deepen understanding of the use and protection of traditional knowledge and present legal systems dealing with traditional knowledge.

(The final year of a 3-year project)
1. Initiatives in Comprehensive Understanding of Civilizational Issues

**Developing Methods of Promoting Civic Participation in Science and Technology**
Tokyo Denki University (Japan)
For FY2003: ¥10,762,090

This project aims to develop new methods for participatory conferences of citizens, placing more emphasis on dialogue between specialists and ordinary citizens, and to actually convene a conference utilizing those methods. The conference will address topics concerning bioethics, one of SPF’s chief areas of interest.

This year, the first of this two-year project, a group of researchers examined existing civic-participation methods in Japan and overseas in order to develop new methods while translating four reports on Western conferences featuring civic participation, chiefly scenario workshops, into Japanese. The group also conducted several focus-group interviews on reproductive medicine and organ transplantation to explore citizens’ concerns and major issues, and prepared materials for selecting the topics of the conference to be held in the second year.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

2. Dialogue and Exchange on Common Regional Issues

**Capacity Building for Development in Central Asia and Caucasus**
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
For FY2003: ¥22,012,717

Ten years since their independence, the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus are still not adequately equipped as states based on political democratization and a market economy. There is an urgent need for the countries of the region to solve the problems impeding the building of interregional cooperation and socioeconomic development. This project is exploring measures to resolve such problems, including confidence building, domestic and external economic integration and consolidation, and achievement of a balance between development and the environment.

This year, in addition to holding a symposium in Moscow and an international conference in Tbilisi, the project helped strengthen the dissemination of information from the region, transmitting a regular electronic newsletter prepared jointly with the Kyrgyz media organization Aki Press and setting up the project’s website (www.spf-issykkul-forum.org/). The network created through these activities contributed to confidence building and encouraged stronger Central Asian and Caucasus interregional cooperation, which had been disrupted after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. These activities were also able to acquaint the Central Asia and Caucasus region with East Asian countries’ mechanisms of economic growth.

(4th year of a 6-year project)

A mosque in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan.

1. Initiatives in Comprehensive Understanding of Civilizational Issues

**Developing Teaching Materials on Bioethics**
Eubios Ethics Institute (Japan)

With the advance of modern life sciences, the need for social and ethical judgments has grown rapidly. There is also a perceived need for ordinary citizens, young and old alike, to have the ability to make ethical judgments. In view of all this, it is believed that bioethics education on various levels will become increasingly necessary. The importance of bioethics education from an early age has been pointed out. Schools today, however, have few teaching materials on bioethics that can cultivate the ability to make ethical judgments.

This project has developed teaching materials for high school students studying bioethics. Special care was taken to cover topics related to bioethics in a comprehensive manner and to adopt a comparative-culture perspective so that the teaching materials could stand up to use in different cultural contexts. The English-language teaching materials, totaling about 250 pages, will be used in high schools in different countries and will be amplified and revised in order to enhance their universality.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
This project follows on from the three-year project Promotion for Alternative Mechanism of Peace Dialogue in the Middle East (fiscal 1999–2001), building on its strengthening of links between the participants in the project, including former Czech President Václav Havel and other world opinion leaders. The aim of the present project is to encourage ongoing dialogue in search of peace in the Middle East, a region plagued by political turmoil.

This year, a workshop was held in Amman, Jordan, on October 25, 2003, to discuss current affairs regarding the war against terrorism and the prospects for Middle East peace. There were 37 participants, representing Middle Eastern countries, Western countries, South Africa, and Japan. In addition, on March 22, 2004, a forum for more tightly focused discussion of Middle East issues was held in Amman for 30 scholars and other experts from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. Because the Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was assassinated that morning, it was feared that the meeting would have to be canceled, but fortunately representatives of the three parties, with Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan acting as chair, were able to gather and listen to one another’s views.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

The development of information technology has swamped modern society with information. Anyone can easily obtain information on Asia, but it is not necessarily transmitted by Asian people or from Asia. This program seeks to convey Asian voices directly to the rest of the world, voices that often go unheard because language barriers and poor infrastructure stand in the way of the dissemination of accurate information.

This year, the first year of phase II of the program, efforts were made to disseminate timely information by means of the Internet, production of reports and transcripts of lectures made available through Internet on-demand publishing, publication of books, and production of videotapes. In addition, for some years Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA has been commissioned by SPF to organize “Asian Voices” seminars in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the United States, with 14 seminars being held this year. Lecturers are invited from Asia to discuss timely topics. (For details see pp. 78–79.) Over time attendance has risen and the seminars have become better known. Summaries of the seminars, made available by the worldwide news site Inter Press Service on the website www.ips.org/asiaamerica/index/html, have been carried in newspapers around the world.

(1st year of a 3-year project)
Genron NPO is engaged in a variety of activities, including organization of policy forums, publication of a magazine, and provision of information via the Internet, aimed at creating a forum for full-fledged debate in Japan. This year, activities concentrated on further developing and improving the project’s two policy forums, the Asia Strategic Conference and the Public Sector Reform Conference.

The Asia Strategic Conference organized 10 forums and two symposiums, “Exploring New Possibilities for Japan-China Relations” and “A Power Assessment of Japan: Toward Building the Japan of the Future.” These activities enabled steady progress in discussion of options for Japan’s future, something not yet articulated by political parties, with the aim of presenting concrete suggestions. They also made it possible to lay the foundations for new networks and routes for the development of discussion of Japan-China relations and Asian issues. The Public Sector Reform Conference organized a symposium, “Can Japanese NPOs Become the Main Actors in Civil Society?” The symposium raised new issues concerning the growing role of NPOs and relations between government and NPOs.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

Forum 2000, which aims to discuss problems common to all humanity and propose ideas promoting peaceful coexistence, has been held annually in Prague since 1997. The forum was redesigned and relaunched in fiscal 2002. The refurbished Forum 2000: Bridging Global Gaps Conference brings together representatives of international organizations and international NGOs on an equal footing so that they can address problems caused by the advance of globalization and come up with concrete and efficacious solutions.

This year’s Forum 2000 took place October 15–17, 2003. To further debate the issues that had been the main focus of discussion the previous year, four workshops were held: “Trade and Agriculture: Current Debates and Controversies,” “Transnational Corporations: Sustainability, Accountability, and Partnership,” “External Debt: Issues of Sustainability and Legitimacy,” and “Global Public Goods: Ambitious Approach or Impossible Ideal?” It is planned to distribute the proposals issuing from each workshop to international organizations and national government agencies and leaders. The Meeting of Representatives of World Religions held in conjunction with the forum, attended by the Dalai Lama and other Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, and Jewish religious leaders, attracted major media coverage.

(1st year of a 2-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
This project aims to develop an expert system capable of contributing to the settlement of the kinds of military conflicts that have been breaking out since World War II. A number of simulation systems and databases pertaining to armed conflicts are already in existence. The system constructed in this project has altogether new value, however, in that it allows data to be manipulated through the use not of some special program but of web pages into which the data have been integrated, and also in that the unit of analysis is not individual conflicts but the parties involved in conflicts.

Emphasis during the project was laid on three points. First was the collection and organization of data on armed conflicts from the end of World War II to the present, along with the search for a structure of conflicts lying in the background. Second was the interaction of data processing, decision making, and actual behavior of the actors involved, such as the parties involved in the conflicts, neighboring countries, and the major powers. Third, based on the insights derived, efforts were directed at building a system for simulating how changes in conditions influence the course of conflicts and atreadying the system for open use on the Internet.

A wide variety of results were achieved in the three years of the project. In fiscal 2001 the participants studied existing systems suitable as references, opened a website to facilitate testing and research, and searched for common factors involved in the development of armed conflicts.

In fiscal 2002 the participants organized and strengthened the platform for operating the system while also participating in international conferences and seminars to improve their technical skills. They continued the search for factors involved in conflicts by means of case studies, focusing in particular on the civil war in Democratic Republic of Congo, which they used as a representative example for the construction of a prototype.

This year, after further fine-tuning of the data, they directed their attention at how best to configure the model of armed conflict and how to present it electronically as effectively as possible. The result was the completion of an expert system on armed conflict that can be made openly available on the Internet.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
The Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Japan program conducts activities aimed at developing future leaders who can contribute to harmonizing the environment and development from a global perspective, building and maintaining a network of people who can cooperate in dealing with the common human issue of sustainable development across national borders, cultures, specialties, and sectors, and disseminating information on governance in regard to the environment and development.

Building on the achievements of phase I of this project (fiscal 1997–99), phase II supported domestic, international, and regional training of the seventh to tenth training cohort, whose members were selected from Japan’s government, business, NGO, and other sectors over a four-year period. In fiscal 2000 there were three training sessions in Japan and three overseas for members of the seventh to ninth cohort. In fiscal 2001 there were four training sessions in Japan and one overseas for members of the eighth to tenth cohort. In fiscal 2002 there were three training sessions in Japan and one overseas for members of the ninth and tenth cohorts; in addition, at the end of March 2003 a media studio was established jointly with the United Nations University (UNU), Keio University, and Cisco Systems, Inc. in the UNU Building as a base for experimental online broadcasting. In fiscal 2003 there were three training sessions in Japan and two overseas for members of the tenth cohort as well as members of the eighth and ninth cohorts who had not yet completed their training.

In addition to the above activities, LEAD Japan worked toward building collaborative networks in parts of Southeast Asia and the Pacific that did not have LEAD programs, taking the initiative in the signing of a collaborative agreement by six LEAD member programs in Asia (China, the Commonwealth of Independent States, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Pakistan). After the agreement was signed, a joint regional training session for the six member programs was held in Thailand with the cooperation of the Asian Institute of Technology. The session included two workshops, one on development of the Mekong basin and one on megacities and rural community development. Keio University participated in the first workshop and UNU in the second, and both developed content for e-learning. Moreover, as a result of active efforts to strengthen networks with cooperating organizations, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and UNU helped develop the training curriculum and teaching materials, and the Research Institute for Subtropics provided resources and funding for the development of e-learning teaching materials using the Geographical Information System.

Through these activities the project contributed to improving trainees’ knowledge and experience and to creating an international network.

(Final year of a 4-year project)
1. Cooperation among Private Nonprofit Organizations, Business, and the Public Sector

**Human Resource Development in Conflict Prevention Activity**

The Japan Center for Conflict Prevention (Japan)
For FY2003: ¥9,857,312

This project aimed to stimulate conflict prevention activities in Japan by disseminating knowledge of conflict prevention. In order to train Japanese people to work in the forefront of conflict prevention, the project set up two courses, an advanced seminar course aimed mainly at university students and an open lecture course for members of the general public.

The 13 participants in the seminar course received lectures from experts on conflict prevention for about three weeks in Tokyo, studying both the theoretical and the practical aspects of conflict resolution. The five participants with the highest marks then took part in two-months of training in Sri Lanka, where they underwent on-site practical training and conducted surveys regarding the removal of landmines and the collection of small arms, and participated in a field trip to Cambodia. Two Japanese people also received training as technical advisors, with the cooperation of the Danish Demining Group, in preparation for planned landmine removal activities in Sri Lanka. In February 2004, 47 local people were hired to help remove landmines, and removal began on March 16. This project thus helped provide a climate conducive to “aid with a human face.”

(A one-year project)

2. Capacity Building and Institutionalization of Private Nonprofit Activities

**Improvement of PCNC’s Certification/Evaluation System**

Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) (Philippines)
For FY2003: ¥2,700,689
Total Expenditure: ¥6,393,070

The Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) is a nonprofit organization that certifies Philippine NGOs for tax-exempt status. This initiative began as a lobbying activity of the NGO sector in opposition to the government’s 1995 tax reform proposal, whereby NGOs’ exemption from taxes on income and donations would be revoked. In the end, it was agreed that in return for the government’s allowing NGOs to retain their tax-exempt status, NGOs themselves would establish a certification body and evaluate NGOs for tax-exempt status.

PCNC’s certification process requires an assessment of the status of applicant NGOs. This is carried out by teams of trained evaluators, who volunteer from the six NGO networks making up PCNC. SPF funded the two-year project introducing this unique process, Documenting the PCNC Experience: Case Study of the First Privately Initiated Council of Certification for NGO Donee Institution Status in the Philippines (1999–2000). A series of monographs on PCNC’s activities was produced and distributed to NGOs and donor organizations both in the Philippines and abroad.

Having operated for several years, PCNC had embarked on a review of its governance and operating system in order to expedite the certification process so as to cope with the rapidly growing number of applicants, review the evaluation criteria of performance and its translation into fair and concrete indicators, and strengthen coordination with government agencies. It is this process that this two-year project supported.

In the first year, government officials, representatives of donor organizations and certified NGOs, NGO staff members experienced as evaluators, certified public accountants, and other stakeholders gathered to discuss how to enhance PCNC’s activities. As a result, the tools for evaluation in the certification process were redesigned into a simpler and more comprehensible certification rating sheet.

This year, the project focused on renewing the curriculum for training evaluators in the use of the revised evaluation tools. PCNC used to use its own staff to train volunteers, and therefore the training was time consuming and inefficient in terms of the number of evaluators needed. To surmount this problem, PCNC used a team of trainers comprising experienced NGO staff and certified public accountants to conduct the training workshop this year. The curriculum was compiled into the Training Manual for PCNC Evaluators, which contains the new evaluation tools as well as necessary guidelines for training evaluators. It provides tips for newly trained evaluators, not only the skills of evaluating applicant organizations for tax-free status but also the practical use of evaluation for organizational assessment of their own organizations. It is useful for the private nonprofit sector outside the Philippines, as well, which commonly seeks to enhance its accountability and professionalism by incorporating evaluation.

(Final year of a 2-year project)
This project, utilizing a model Internet-based program, is setting up pilot NPO-related graduate courses and collecting and providing documentary and statistical data.

This year, pilot courses aimed at the eventual establishment of an NPO-related graduate school were inaugurated. The class content was recorded on digital video as a lecture archive. In addition, universities in Japan and overseas conducted interactive lectures to explore the possibility of distance lectures. Development of graduate-level texts also progressed. The NPO White Paper 2004 was produced, and preparation of an NPO management text proceeded. Meanwhile, a service was inaugurated to provide systematically collected and organized documentary and statistical data on Japanese NPOs on demand. Research exchange aimed at studying mainly overseas cases of NPO education was also promoted. Japanese researchers were sent to the International Society for Third Sector Research and the U.S.-based Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. One NPO representative each from Britain and India was invited to attend the annual meeting of the Japan NPO Research Association on March 20, 2004, and take part in an international symposium held in conjunction with the meeting.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

The growth of the private nonprofit sector has led to an increase in information on the sector. But such information is not always shared effectively between providers (NPOs) and recipients (researchers, citizens, and other interested parties). For example, even if NPOs produce publications of high scholarly merit, they often have limited distribution because of financial and other constraints. In addition, sometimes interested researchers, inundated by information, cannot obtain precisely the information they need.

This project is an attempt to improve this situation. The Voluntary Health Association of India, which possesses one of the largest networks in India, where the nonprofit sector is mature and rich in information, is developing an online resource center (ORC) for NPOs, an Internet-based system for effectively providing and sharing documentary and statistical data. The main activity this year was an online resource center for NPOs/NGOs. This year, in preparation for the fully fledged case studies to begin next year, a background paper was compiled for each of the target countries identifying the environment of and problems facing the nonprofit sector and the circumstances of policy dialogue and proposals.

(1st year of a 3-year project)
II. Fostering Human Security and Private Nonprofit Activities

3. Surveys and Research on Private Nonprofit Activities

Research on the Role of Program Officers in Grantmaking Systems

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

In the United States, the government funding schemes for research grants are managed through funding agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). They have program officers, who review grant proposals and process applications for grants. Program officers are also found in private grantmaking foundations.

In fiscal 2003, Japan introduced program officers to its funding system for research grants. However, there is little research on the role of program officers and little awareness of their existence in Japan. This project aims to raise the social profile of program officers through overseas case studies and highlight them as professionals who coordinate ideas, resource persons, and funding support in various sectors of society, both public and private.

This year, a working group of academics and practitioners was formed to study the function of program officers. In addition, Insider’s Guide to Grantmaking by Joel Orosz (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2000) was translated into Japanese, which provides a useful overview for both grantmakers and grantseekers on the role of program officers.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

3. Surveys and Research on Private Nonprofit Activities

Program/Project Evaluation: A View from the Other Side

Center for Community Services, Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)

Although the importance of evaluation of development projects implemented by NGOs is recognized, in many instances, donors spearhead evaluation, and evaluation results can diverge considerably from the perception of the NGOs involved in on-site activities. Sometimes, too, the results of evaluation, whose primary aim is to improve projects, do not deliver a return to project beneficiaries.

This project aims to establish an evaluation methodology as a tool that can deliver a return to project beneficiaries and also contribute to project improvement and development. This is to be accomplished by examining the present state of evaluation, chiefly from the viewpoints of implementers and beneficiaries, with development projects in the Philippines being used as examples.

This year, a series of reflection sessions, learning circles, and workshops was held to enable representatives of NGOs and other NPOs, donor organizations, evaluators, researchers, and other stakeholders to discuss the problems areas of existing evaluation methodologies and the kind of methodology that would take into account the viewpoints of implementers and beneficiaries. These meetings were held not only in Manila but also in other cities, including Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga, and all featured lively discussion.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

3. Surveys and Research on Private Nonprofit Activities

Studying a Satellite Account on Nonprofit Institutions and Its Relation to the System of National Accounts in Japan

The Institute of Statistical Research (ISR) (Japan)

Although the private nonprofit sector has enjoyed dazzling growth over recent years, existing economic statistics throw very little light on what has been going on. Because of this, it is hard for researchers and policymakers to get a solid quantitative grasp of the scale of the sector and the scope of its activities. In 2003 the United Nations released Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts, which is a manual for the compilation of a “satellite account” covering the activities of nonprofit institutions (NPIs). Born from the realization that an NPI satellite account can be usefully applied in, for example, economic and social analyses and public policymaking, the present project aims to investigate the conditions that must be met and the tasks that must be tackled in order for Japan to bring such a set of statistics into being.

This year a research committee including statisticians, economists, accounting experts, and nonprofit sector professionals was formed, and oversaw the translation of the handbook into Japanese. The committee also prepared a list of subjects to investigate for the creation of a Japanese version of this satellite account.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

With legislation dealing with public-interest corporations due to be amended in fiscal 2005, this project aimed to present concrete suggestions from the private sector for revision of the concept of public interest and the criteria for evaluation of public-interest organizations.

Three research conferences and five preparatory working-group meetings regarding the concept of public interest explored the aims and activities of public-interest corporations, the conditions such organizations should be required to meet, and other relevant topics. In May 2003 a symposium on the meaning of “public interest” was held. Some 200 representatives of public-interest corporations and government agencies, as well as outside specialists, discussed the concept of public interest. In addition, 11 research conferences and 14 working-group meetings regarding the criteria for evaluating public-interest organizations sought concrete suggestions on revising the present legal system and regulations, including evaluation methodology and specific evaluation criteria having to do with governance.

(A one-year project)
III. Japan and Asia in the World

2 - East Asian Renewal and Transfer of Experience
3 - Construction of a World Economic System and the Role of

Due to the enlarged scale of projects and regional parameters of The Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund, all projects in this category are administered by the Fund.
The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund

1 - Exchange Projects That Respect the Values and Cultural Identity

2 - Micronesia-Focused Projects Aimed at Promoting

3 - Projects That Support Education and Training through the

4 - Projects to Promote Networking among NGOs and NPOs Operating in the Region and to Form Linkages among Pacific
Ties between Pacific island nations and Japan are growing deeper year by year as Japan’s private sector continues to invest in these countries and more official development assistance is extended to them. From fiscal 1991 to fiscal 1999, the Fund implemented the project Inviting Media Personnel from the Pacific Island Region to Japan. More than 60 media personnel from Pacific island nations visited Japan throughout that project, which sought to promote an understanding of Japan within the region. Thanks to the project’s success, it was decided to follow up with the present five-year project.

The Japanese government hosted the third Japan–Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting (PALM 2003) in Okinawa in May 2003. The Fund enabled participation from U.S. and French territories when it extended invitations to 10 journalists working for such media organs as the Marianas Variety (Northern Marianas), the Pacific Daily News (Guam), Pacific Magazine (Hawaii), Televise Samoa (Samoa), and Tahitipress (French Polynesia). The media coverage of this summit contributed to a deeper understanding between Japan and the Pacific island nations.

As part of the “Coconuts College of the Pacific” project, the Coconuts College open lecture was held on June 28–29, 2003.
The island nations of the Pacific are using the legal systems of their former colonial powers in conjunction with traditional customs 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.

In this project the University of the South Pacific (USP), which has been offering distance education to Pacific islanders, aimed to provide high-quality educational materials and interactive classes for students in outlying areas who were enrolled in the School of Law. The School of Law developed a curriculum covering some 60 subjects for bachelor’s and master’s degrees and began offering it at the USP School of Law website, which was set up in 1998 at the USP Centre in Vanuatu (www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj). Priority was also placed on website system development to enable professors and other teaching staff to freely manage course content with a little training. Active participation of students was made possible by setting up online discussion groups, chat groups, news services, and bulletin boards, all of which were offered on the website together with tests students can take to grade themselves.

The development of these online teaching aids facilitated the introduction of existing courses on law from Australia and New Zealand and enabled university resources to be used more effectively. In a bid to attract students from other regions of the world, the staff of the School of Law held talks with universities and related organizations in Britain, France, Germany, Hong Kong, the United States, and Vietnam. This resulted in students elsewhere being given the opportunity to learn about law in the Pacific island region.

During the three years of its development, this online course of the USP School of Law gained recognition as the “Vanuatu model” of distance education and sparked other such efforts within the university. On the main USP campus in Fiji, online courses based on this model have already been developed and put into use for preschool education, psychology, and training in Pacific island languages. The online law course also enabled the USP Centre in Vanuatu, which has only a small staff and few financial resources, to develop continuous and reliable instruction. Evidence of this is provided by enrolment at the center, which swelled from about 10 students to more than 100 students over the three-year period.

In relation to this project, the Japan International Cooperation Agency has been putting effort into capacity building in distance education, with its focus on USP’s Fiji campus. The people involved in this work also give the Vanuatu model high marks, and they have plans to develop their own audiovisual teaching aids.

(Final 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 in particular has lagged since independence, and there is a need to both retrieve history and inform educators of it.

In 1996 SPF began supporting a pilot training project in Vanuatu. In 2001 a full-fledged cultural heritage training project was initiated in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. It focused on training for cultural heritage professionals and community educational activities, making use of radio, the press, the Internet, and other multimedia tools.

The activities in Papua New Guinea were on the islands of New Ireland, Manus, and Bougainville; those in Vanuatu took place on and around Malakula. Gaining understanding and official approval from central governments and local communities was the first order of business. Over the three years of the project a cumulative total of almost 200 people involved in the protection and management of cultural heritage took part in field studies. Information about the field studies and Melanesian prehistory was widely publicized using special programs on radio, feature articles in newspapers, and lecture meetings in local schools and communities. In the project’s second year three Japanese specialists, one each from Sophia University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Hawaii, and a young researcher from Taiwan studying at Chiba University shared their expertise regarding scholarly research and ways in which the local community can contribute to the protection and management of cultural heritage.

This year, cultural heritage workshops were held on Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and Vao Island, Vanuatu, and field training for archaeological excavations was provided. Among the activities in the area of community education, workshops were held in elementary, middle, and high schools, and educational materials were distributed and evaluated. These teaching aids were maps of the Pacific and a feature edition of Wave of Pacifika, a newsletter published by the Fund, on the ancient Lapita culture. Two publications were compiled as fruits of the project for the edification of schoolteachers and community residents: a comic book on archaeology and a book on Melanesian prehistory. They are to be published in English, French, Bislama, and Pidgin English editions. In addition, two outside experts, Professor Matthew Spriggs from the Australian National University and Dr. Jim Specht, a research fellow at the Australian Museum, conducted evaluations of the project. The texts of their reports and other information on the project results are being electronically distributed (www.yashinomi.to).

While the countries of Micronesia are in urgent need of human resources for their nation-building efforts, many local residents have not received school education, and as many as 25,000 Micronesians have migrated to the United States to study and work. This project, which aims to provide educational opportunities to Micronesians wherever they are and whatever their circumstances may be, involves preparing a database of the more than 20 years of research conducted by the Micronesian Seminar and making the results available over the Internet.

This year project coordinators went to Japan for two weeks to collect photos from the period of Micronesia’s rule by Japan between the two world wars. They returned with some 700 photos made available to them from the personal collections of Professor Michiko Intoh, from the National Museum of Ethnology, and Yoji Yamaguchi, and also from books given to them by an Okinawan organization. They have since unveiled six new online photo albums at their website (www.micsem.org), including three from the period of Japanese rule: The Rise of Towns, The Era of Big Business, and The Japanese Flag Unfurled. Each month this website has been receiving as many as 100,000 hits.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
The digital divide is the subject of lively discussion in the context of international cooperation, but while most of this talk focuses on Asian and African countries, little attention is paid to Pacific island nations. Although the former colonial powers are taking the initiative in the telecommunications policies of these countries, there are few opportunities for active involvement by islanders themselves, and there is little interest in the subject in Japan. This project set up a study committee of Japanese telecommunications policymakers, who investigated the status of telecommunications in Pacific island nations and compiled a report.

In the first year the committee had three meetings, sent study missions to both Micronesia and New Caledonia, and conducted a workshop at the University of Hawaii. The committee also introduced the issues of Pacific island nations to international forums discussing telecommunications policy, organizing a Pacific islands side event at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held at the United Nations University, Tokyo, in January 2003. In addition, the committee made policy recommendations for inclusion of the issues of Pacific island nations in the Asia Broadband Program, one of the concrete measures of the IT Strategic Headquarters set up under the aegis of the prime minister of Japan and his cabinet.

In the second year the project office found itself unable to arrange for another workshop. But it later entrusted part of its functions to outside organizations; supported the participation of four people from Pacific island nations at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva in December 2003; and organized a Pacific islands workshop at the summit as a side event. Committee member Kenji Saga took part in the workshop and made a presentation on the committee's policy recommendations.

Drawing on the interim report compiled in the first year, the committee completed a final report including its policy recommendations. The report has five chapters, on the current state of information and communication technology in Pacific island nations, the experiences of Japan that apply to Pacific islands, the current status of and issues in Micronesia, WSIS and Pacific islands, and policy recommendations. The text contains concrete action plans, including a proposal on developing distance education and telemedicine in Micronesia and a call for research on lessons to be learned from human resources in the Okinawan health sector and their application in international health.

The project is now scheduled for extension into a two-year second phase. The focus will shift to activities aimed at getting the committee’s policy recommendations implemented through cooperation with such relevant organizations as UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the University of Hawaii, and the Foundation for Development Cooperation, an Australian NGO.

(Final year of a 2-year project)
The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund
It is hoped that Chinese people in the field of security who are fluent in Japanese will promote Japan-China defense-related exchange by acting as a conduit between China and Japan. Such human resources are extremely scarce, however, and there are very few opportunities for training in Japan. This five-year project sought to improve this state of affairs and thus accelerate defense-related exchange.

Specifically, the project included two training programs in order to train high-level interpreters familiar with Japan-related issues for the People’s Liberation Army. First, in each year of the project two people (10 altogether) were invited to Japan for a year’s training. Second, the project provided support for outstanding trainees who wished, on returning to China, to take the master’s degree course for working people offered by Peking University’s School of International Studies.

Under the training program in Japan, each year two people were sent by the China Institute for International Strategic Studies to undertake a year’s study in the Japanese-studies program at Keio or Waseda University. The course, aimed chiefly at improving language ability, included listening comprehension, reading comprehension, oral expression, written expression, grammar, current affairs, and linguistics. The trainees also audited classes in international relations at the two universities and received special lectures on such subject as Japanese politics, foreign policy, and defense policy at the Research Institute for Peace and Security, the Asian Forum Japan, and other organizations. In addition, they took part in the exchange activities of another project supported by the Fund, Program for Promoting Japan-China Exchange in the Field of Security (p.47), and study tours to Okinawa, Hokkaido, and other parts of Japan. On completing the program the trainees submitted reports in Japanese on the results of their training and on Japan-China security issues. After returning to China they reported on the results of their training to the defense organs with which they were affiliated.

The training program in China gave trainees who had done especially well in the program in Japan the opportunity, with the permission of the defense organs with which they were affiliated, to enroll as regular students in the three-year master’s degree course for working people offered by Peking University’s School of International Studies. Of the 10 trainees over the course of the project, four are enrolled in this course, and two are scheduled to gain master’s degrees in July 2005.

The former trainees are employed in the Ministry of National Defense, the General Staff Headquarters, the National Defense University, overseas diplomatic establishments, and elsewhere. Highly valued by the governments and military establishments of both China and Japan as skilled interpreters and experts on Japan-related issues, they are active in the front line of Japan-China defense-related exchange.

(4th year of a 5-year project)
This project was launched in fiscal 1999 to provide Chinese young people with an opportunity for exchange with their Japanese peers, to deepen their understanding of Japanese society as a whole and promote understanding between young people in the two countries. Outstanding students enrolled in Chinese universities with Japanese-language programs, as well as exceptional young people whose work in government agencies and other organizations after their graduation involved exchange with Japan, were invited to visit Japan. It is hoped that this initiative, in addition to giving young people studying Japanese in China a dream to pursue, has contributed to the promotion of Japanese-language education.

Over the five years of the project a total of 80 young people, including undergraduate and graduate students of 32 universities as well as university graduates working in 8 central government agencies and 20 local government agencies, visited Japan. Before leaving for Japan the participants studied conditions in contemporary Japan and took part in preparatory meetings to discuss the issues on which to focus in exchange with Japanese young people. During their eight- to ten-day stay in Japan the participants visited leading universities and discussed political, economic, and cultural issues of common interest with Japanese students. They also worked to understand Japan better through home stays with Japanese families and visits to central and local government agencies, companies and other private-sector organizations, rural communities, and scenic spots. After returning to China they compiled reports describing their exchange in Japan and their impressions, which were circulated to their universities or alma maters and distributed to relevant parties in Japan. They also worked to promote understanding of Japan among Chinese students by sharing their experiences in Japan and their impressions through symposiums and other forums.

This project was linked to the project Sasakawa Scholarship System for Chinese Students Studying Japanese, Phase II (p. 46), with exchange students being selected mainly from outstanding scholarship recipients and other students recommended by universities participating in the scholarship project. Most of the beneficiaries of the present project are playing a prominent part in exchange with Japan in central and local government, universities and other educational and research institutions, and companies and other private-sector organizations, where they are promoting Japan-China cooperation.

The China Association for International Friendly Contact, which implemented the project, conducted a follow-up survey every year and produced a report on the participants’ present circumstances, views, and impressions. The report has been circulated to relevant agencies and individuals and is helping in the creation of a network.

(Final year of a 5-year project)

This project aimed to provide opportunities for dialogue between Japanese and Chinese defense-related personnel and researchers on security issues through private-sector channels. An eight-member delegation from Japan comprising mainly Self-Defense Force field officers and specialists in security issues from the Japan Defense Agency, the National Institute for Defense Studies, the National Defense Academy, and other organizations visited China December 17–21, 2003. They took part in a symposium on Northeast Asian security issues December 18–19. Taking part from Japan were representatives of defense-related agencies such as the Ministry of National Defense, the General Staff Headquarters, the National Defense University, the Academy of Military Sciences, the China Institute for International Strategic Studies, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Researchers from Russia and Korea also attended. The 80 or so participants discussed the international situation following the war in Iraq, security problems on the Korean Peninsula and the six-party talks, the Japan-US security setup, and other security issues.

The Japanese delegation also paid courtesy calls to Deputy Chief of the General Staff Headquarters Xiong Guangkai and other leaders, and visited ground, air, and naval military facilities. The participants on both sides strove to understand not only the other country’s military establishment but also its society and culture by visiting companies, rural communities, and ordinary families and viewing historical sites, cultural properties, and traditional performing arts. (1st year of a 3-year project)
Exchange and dialogue among the future leaders of Japan and China are extremely important for building bilateral trust and cooperation. This project, targeting the young Japan researchers who hold the key to understanding between the younger generation in both countries, supported research exchange activities of young Japan researchers in Japan and China for five years, beginning in fiscal 1999. The aims of the project were to create a forum where young researchers could meet and share research findings in order to improve the sharing of perceptions and raise the standard of research, strengthen the network of young researchers, and enable their research findings to have a greater impact on the shaping of policy proposals and public opinion.

The major activity was the annual Young Japan Researchers Forum in Beijing, organized by the China Association for International Friendly Contact and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ Institute of Japanese Studies. Each year 40 people participated, for a total of 200 people over the project’s five years. The themes of the forums were “Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy” (fiscal 1999), “Currents of Thought in Japanese Society” (fiscal 2000), “Japan and Northeast Asian Economic Cooperation” (fiscal 2001), “Chinese Views of Japan and Japanese Views of China” (fiscal 2002), and “Japan-China Relations in the World Context” (fiscal 2003).

Engaging in lively research presentations and exchanges of information and views based on the research papers, they focused on improving the sharing of perceptions, raising the standard of research, and deepening mutual understanding. Numerous representatives of the Japanese Embassy in China and journalists from both countries also attended the forums as observers. After each forum, the Institute of Japanese Studies compiled extracts from the papers presented into a volume published by World Affairs Press, a leading Chinese publisher, as part of the Twenty-first Century Japanese Studies series. In order to give the young researchers’ views wide exposure, each year a project report incorporating policy proposals was also presented to relevant agencies.

One aim of the project was to strengthen exchange and goodwill among young researchers in Japan and China through the annual forum. Thanks to the project’s five-year duration, understanding and friendship among young Japan researchers were deepened and the groundwork was laid for joint projects in specific fields. At present, the Institute of Japanese Studies is serving as the secretariat for joint research on specific themes launched by young researchers from both countries on their own initiative.

An eight-person delegation consisting chiefly of deputy mayors of four cities and one prefecture in China visited Japan November 16–24, 2003. The municipalities represented were Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province; Chengdu, Sichuan Province; Tongren Prefecture, Guizhou Province; Zengzhou, Henan Province; and Changsha, Hunan Province. The delegates met with the administrative vice-minister of the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts, and Telecommunications and visited the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, the private-sector company Dentsu Inc., and the site of the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, exchanging views with specialists. They also attended seminars at which they learned about the central government’s policy for stimulating local economies, urban image building based on collaboration between business and local government, and event organization in the context of economic promotion and environmental protection. In addition, they observed the preservation and utilization of tourism resources in Kyoto and Kobe.

The majority of the delegates were bureaucrats who had never been to Japan before. This exchange visit enabled them to deepen their understanding of not only Japanese policies for promoting regional cities but also Japanese society overall. They also strengthened personal links with people in Japan and acquired experience of overseas hands-on learning. After returning to China the delegation prepared a report on its visit that was circulated to the State Council and relevant agencies of provincial and municipal governments. In addition, by relaying information and their experiences in Japan to relevant bureaucrats in China they endeavored to promote cooperation between Japanese and Chinese local governments.

(A one-year project)
3. Activities to Promote Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century

Japan-China Young History Researchers Conference

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Arrangement Committee of Japan-China Young History researchers Conference (China)

This project aims 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.

This year, a meeting for the presentation of research findings by Japanese and Chinese scholars (including Chinese scholars residing in Japan), as well as lecture and discussion meetings to exchange views to which senior researchers were invited, took place. Scholars also delivered lectures at universities and took part in study meetings in each other's country. In addition, the Japan-China Young History Researchers Conference was held at Zhejiang University March 19–20, 2004. About 40 participants from Japan and China exchanged views on such topics as Japanese historical research methods and methods of resolving differences in Japanese and Chinese historical perceptions. A collection of research sources based on the conference proceedings was also produced in order to share perceptions and information.

On the basis of the project's results so far, work began on a handbook addressing the major issues in regard to Japanese and Chinese modern history. Its contents include basic sources, the chief points of controversy on both sides, and commentaries by young history researchers.

(3rd year of a 5-year project)

4. Activities to Advance the Fund's International Role

Promoting Evaluation for Development of the Chinese Nonprofit Sector

School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University (China)

For FY2003: ¥2,544,654

While many private nonprofit organizations in China have built up capacity, some remain unchanged. Evaluation of private nonprofit organizations is effective for their own capacity building and is also important for the Chinese government, which wants to transfer part of its public services to private nonprofit organizations. This project aims to identify criteria for evaluating nonprofit organizations in China.

In fiscal 2001 and 2002, the project implemented basic surveys, identified elementary criteria, and conducted trial evaluations. The outputs heightened the government sector's interest in evaluation, such as Guangdong Province's Department of Civil Affairs, which applied evaluation in its annual examination of social organizations. The project team joined in evaluating research projects implemented by the Japanese Embassy in China, international organizations, and overseas NGOs in order to increase samples of trial evaluations. A preliminary draft of the evaluation framework and indicators was completed, and the evaluation system based on them was called “APC evaluation” (accountability, performance, capacity evaluation).

This year, in symposiums and training sessions, the project members presented reports on APC evaluation and spread awareness of the system. In November 2003 Public-Interest Project Evaluation (in Chinese) was published. A symposium on nonprofit organization evaluation was held at Tsinghua University February 21–22, 2004. The 46 participants, including participants from Taiwan and Hong Kong, represented nonprofit organizations, the business sector, governmental agencies, and academic institutions. The outcome of the symposium was later published as Public Organization Evaluation (in Chinese). The project leader, Professor Wang Ming, vice-president of Tsinghua University’s School of Public Affairs, addressed the issue of evaluation of nonprofit organizations at the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

When the project began, only a handful of specialists were interested in evaluation. With the rapid transfer of social services to the private nonprofit sector and the rising interest in public-money property rights and managerial responsibility, however, the achievements of the project are being broadly understood and recognized. At present, not only people involved with the private nonprofit sector but also delegates to the National People’s Congress and the CPPCC share awareness of the importance of evaluation for government and public organizations. The Regulations for Administration of Foundations, with the addition of a clause on the monitoring and evaluation of foundations, were enforced in June 2004. The outcomes of the project are said to have played a significant part in providing a theoretical foundation of the added clause.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
In this project the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), a national-level organization, undertook capacity building of the Association for Rural Development of Yilong County (ARDY), in Sichuan Province, and CANGO and ARDY collaborated in local capacity building in Chifeng, a city in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Using a model based on these activities, the project aimed to demonstrate the effectiveness of utilizing private nonprofit organizations, thus contributing to the privatization of various social services as part of social structural reform.

In fiscal 2001, a seminar, “The World Trade Organization and Market Knowledge,” as well as many workshops on agricultural skills, business operations, microcredit operations, agricultural technical training, disaster prevention, food stockpiling, and other subjects, were held for 844 village chiefs in Yilong County. In fiscal 2002, a biomass program and workshops focusing on participatory learning and action training and other new initiatives were conducted in Yilong County. In addition, CANGO and ARDY jointly conducted workshops on microcredit operations and practical skills in Chifeng.

In fiscal 2003, workshops on strengthening association organizational operations, ecological agricultural skills, and light manufacturing processing skills were held in Yilong County. Moreover, by assisting in the establishment of the Yilong Association for Apiarists, the project contributed to forming a network connecting markets, associations, and farmers. In Chifeng “step-up” workshops on microcredit operations and promotional activities on the effectiveness of microcredit and cooperative action were conducted. In February 2004 a wrap-up conference for people involved in the project and government and media representatives was held. The activities in Chifeng, known collectively as the “Chifeng model,” were recognized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other international organizations and were covered by various media.

CANGO also established a training center in Tianjing, which conducted regular workshops utilizing the experiences in the two target areas and exchange with foreign organizations. By February 2004 a total of 213 representatives of grass-roots organizations had participated in these workshops.

This project was undertaken with the cooperation of domestic NGOs in China and attracted attention from many quarters. In addition to projects commissioned by government agencies, CANGO conducted contract research at the request of international organizations and other bodies. CANGO also received one of the biggest grants under the Japanese-government program Grant Assistance for Grassroots NGOs for Chifeng as a consequence of the success of the project. Organizations participating in the project upgraded their organizational skills. As a result, the executive director of ARDY, which had actively shown governments the effectiveness of private nonprofit organizations, was elected vice-chairman of the Yilong County Political Consultative Conference, and the Chifeng Women’s Association for Sustainable Development was commended by the UNDP and other international organizations as an outstanding organization in the field of microcredit operations.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund
1. Enhancing Mutual Exchange between Japan and Central European Countries

Contemporary Japanese Studies at Central European Universities

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

For FY2003: ¥ 8,950,007
Total Expenditure: ¥ 13,086,951

Promotion of Small Enterprises: Sharing Experiences between Japan and Central Europe

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Most of the universities in Central Europe that offer courses on Japan, concentrate on the Japanese language and classical literature; there are almost no courses designed to build understanding of contemporary Japan. This project aims to establish courses on the economy and management in contemporary Japan, the area most requested by Central European universities and students. Universities in the Fund’s four target countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) promote understanding of contemporary Japan and develop human resources with a good knowledge of present-day Japanese conditions. These courses are not one-off lecture series but official courses for credit, taught by Japanese lecturers recruited through the SPF website and by other means. The Fund is also providing the required texts for the courses free of charge.

This year, five lecturers sent from Japan gave intensive courses of 15 90-minute lectures in each of the four countries in October and November 2003. A total of 140 students took the courses and offered many favorable comments.

(2nd year of a 5-year project)

During Central European countries’ transition to market economies, small-scale private enterprises offered people employment and livelihood, thus underpinning the transition. Over the past dozen or so years, small enterprises have established themselves as indispensable to the region’s socioeconomic survival and development, but they have been unable to achieve healthy development as part of society. While a number of factors have blocked the development of small enterprises, this two-year project aimed to overcome these obstacles through creation of a forum in which they can share their thoughts and experiences.

In the first year, surveys were conducted in the Fund’s four target countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) to identify the circumstances and problems surrounding Central European small enterprises, thus building a foundation to enable proprietors and researchers to share perspectives. In addition, these researchers studied the functions of existing organizations equivalent to chambers of commerce and industry as well as grass-roots networks. The results of the first year’s surveys and analyses were published in the SPF on-demand report series “Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Central Europe: An Overview.”

On the basis of the first year’s finding that there were few forums in Central Europe enabling small-enterprise proprietors to communicate and exchange experiences with one another, this year’s efforts were concentrated on identifying voluntarily formed grass-roots networks of proprietors. Eight proprietors—two from each of the four target countries—were also invited to Japan on a study tour June 14–24, 2003. In Japan they visited Japanese small-enterprise associations, the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, and local industries. In addition, the findings of the study, which analysed the structure and functions of 12 grass-roots networks, 3 from each of the target countries, were published in the SPF on-demand report series “Voices from the World” as The Formation of Networking Cooperation among Small Enterprises in Central Europe. In September people involved with these grass-roots networks and researchers who had studied them visited the target countries and organized meetings for local small-enterprise proprietors to report research results to exchange experiences of four typical grass-roots networks.

It is hoped that this project will lead to the formation of a network of small-enterprise proprietors and improvement of their sociality.

(Final year of a 2-year project)
The liberation of Central European countries from the socialist bloc brought many issues to the surface. Among the most serious were the development of a healthy civil society, which underpins democracy, and the overcoming of environmental degradation, which was ignored under the socialist system.

This project rewards NGOs in the Fund’s four target countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) for devising pioneering solutions to environmental problems by conferring the Sasakawa Environmental Award. The aims of the award are to spread innovative environmental-improvement methods and activities and stimulate citizen activities. This year was the final year of the four-year project. Over the project’s duration almost 300 applications were received, and three winners in each target country were chosen every year after rigorous screening by local selection committees.

The award presentation ceremony in each country was widely reported through newspapers, radio, television, and other media. Press conferences by the winners further helped bring wider publicity of their innovative projects. In addition to a cash award, a representative from the first-place winner in each country visited Japan on a study tour. In addition to enabling the award recipients to learn about environmental-improvement initiatives in Japan, the study tour provided forums for Central European and Japanese environmental groups to learn from one another by engaging in meaningful exchanges of views on environmental problems and solutions.

This year’s study tour focused on the legal systems surrounding waste disposal and recycling and ways and means of putting environmental improvement on a business footing. The award recipients visited businesses and recycling plants that provide environmental services. The visitors showed special interest in laws for the recycling of electric appliances and electric-appliance recycling plants, both of which are issues that Central European countries need to address.

Over the four years of the Sasakawa Environmental Award, applications were received from organizations engaged in a wide range of activities. Altogether 48 organizations, 12 from each target country, received the award. In the first two years, activities to solve waste pollution problems and protect forests were prominent, but in the last two years the emphasis began to shift to activities having to do with the creation of systems, such as frameworks for recycling and the resolution of local problems through citizen-government cooperation. The project thus enabled the changing priorities in regard to Central European social issues to be seen through the prism of environmental problems.

(1st year of a 3-year project)
The Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund
Using “development” and “regional cooperation” as its key terms, this project sought to strengthen personal networks in the target countries by identifying potential leaders and carrying out exchange activities. Each year had a focus of its own, starting with journalists in the first year and continuing on to artists in the second, politicians and policy researchers in the third, and young people (late teens and early twenties) in the fourth. They were invited to take part in retreat-type workshops for discussions of regional issues.

Separate exchange activities targeted at opinion leaders in Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Vietnam were started up in fiscal 2001. To improve the quality of this phase of the project, the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund received advice on people to select and activities to pursue from Dr. Mya Than, a visiting fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

The original plan this year was to focus on exchange among business leaders, but when conflicts in scheduling emerged, the focus was redirected at young people and opinion leaders. In the area of youth exchange, the Fund supported a workshop organized by the Children’s International Summer Village, to which eight young people from three Indochinese countries were invited (April 1–6, 2003). Addressing the theme of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, the participants engaged in a lively exchange of views. The occasion provided an opportunity for networking across borders for these potential leaders in the political and economic affairs of the Indochinese region.

As part of the exchange among opinion leaders, former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, House of Representatives member Seiken Sugiuara, and House of Councillors member Hiroshige Seko were sent to Myanmar (April 29–May 2). They engaged in wide-ranging exchanges of views on such matters as politics, the economy, and culture with various Myanmar leaders, including Than Shwe, chairman of the State Peace and Development Council; Maung Aye and Khin Nyunt, SPDC vice-chairmen; and U Win Aung, minister for foreign affairs.

Another part of this exchange was a visit to Tokyo, Osaka, and Hiroshima by a five-member mission led by Nguyen Thi Binh, former vice-president of Vietnam (July 31–August 9). Among the Japanese government and private-sector leaders they exchanged views with were Prime Minister Jun’ichiro Koizumi, House of Representatives member Yoshimi Watanabe, The Nippon Foundation President Yohei Sasakawa, and Research Institute for Peace and Security President Akio Watanabe. On August 6 they attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima, and on August 7 Binh delivered an address in Tokyo on the political and economic situation in Vietnam and on such matters as Agent Orange, as well.

It is hoped that these two exchange programs for influential figures helped to strengthen personal networks and deepen understanding of Japan in the leadership circles of Myanmar and Vietnam. (Final year of a 5-year project)

Fiscal 2003 was the second year of this project, which in its first year featured five seminars in Japan for dialogue between civilizations. This year saw the organization overseas of two more seminars for dialogue between civilizations, one in Tehran and the other in Delhi.

The dialogue between Japan and Iran had religion as its theme. Held in February 2004 and cosponsored by the Institute for Interreligious Studies in Iran, the seminar provided an opportunity to acquaint people in Iran with Japanese Buddhism and polytheism. The Delhi seminar was titled “Asian Civilizational Dialogue” and took place in March. It was organized with the assistance of Dr. L. M. Singhvi, senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, who had been a lecturer at the second of the first year’s seminars on the theme “Hinduism and the World.” Learned people from 16 Asian countries (including the Middle East) were invited to speak at the Delhi seminar, and they helped to make it a fruitful event. The project also gave support to the thirteenth international conference held by Jordan’s Islamic Academy of Sciences, marking a start of assistance aimed at promoting understanding of Islam from a scientific angle.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
Enterprising Civil Society Organizations in Asia

The Asian civil society sector is demonstrating interest in the breed of people known as “social entrepreneurs,” public-spirited individuals who organize businesses that provide NGOs with funds and enable them to manage without relying on overseas aid and government subsidies. Asian NGOs are undertaking missions dedicated to overcoming poverty and resolving other social ills, and they are hoping that social entrepreneurs can effectively help them put their operations on a more sustainable footing as they seek to secure employment and self-reliance for community beneficiaries. This project aims to ascertain the situation of Asia’s social entrepreneurs in 11 Asian countries and regions and enable them to share their experiences.

This year working groups were organized in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and elsewhere) and East Asia (Hong Kong, Taiwan, and elsewhere), and they collected information on cases of successful “social enterprises” among the activities of private nonprofit organizations. In February 2004 NGOs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand began to send interns to other NGOs in Indonesia and the Philippines. These interns go to places where NGOs are making use of ecotourism, microcredit, and other such techniques. The interns observe what is going on, acquire practical know-how, and study the issues involved.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
Human Resource Development in Myanmar

This project is aimed at fostering human resources in Myanmar, particularly public officials and young journalists. Lecturers are invited from Malaysia, Korea, and Thailand, and they seek to develop the skills of midlevel bureaucrats and other trainees by acquainting them with the experience of Myanmar’s neighbors. The hope is that within this intellectual setting the trainees will gain the ability to frame policy issues in a broader perspective.

This year a training workshop for midlevel regional officials was held in Mandalay (May 22–24, 2003), and another one for midlevel central-government officials was held in Yangon (November 11–15). High-level officials of Myanmar’s Civil Service Selection and Training Board were taken on a study tour to Korea (December 11–16), where they were familiarized with the course of reform in Korea’s civil service system and had a chance to exchange views with their Korean counterparts on such subjects as the future of the civil service system and the personnel system in Myanmar. The project also provided training to young journalists with the Myanmar Times, and they learned about such basics of journalism as writing copy and headlines.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

Business Case Development: Enhancement of Business School Education in Uzbekistan

This project seeks to acquaint teachers and graduate students at Tashkent State Economic University and the Higher School of Business with the realities of business management in East Asian countries. With the cooperation of management experts from Japan, Singapore, and Korea, it provides an opportunity for the sharing of experience with the real economy in an organized fashion. The project also aims to develop business-school educational materials tailored to the realities of corporate management in Uzbekistan.

A number of activities were carried out this year in Tashkent with the help of Osamu Nariai, a professor of international economics at Reitaku University, who served as project advisor. (1) Nine experts were dispatched from several countries, including Japan, Singapore, and Korea, and they conducted an initial workshop on methods of preparing teaching materials and delivered lectures on business cases in East Asian countries (October 8–10, 2003). (2) Surveys of quality control, production technology, and other subjects were conducted at 10 local companies (including joint ventures with foreign firms), and examples were collected for the preparation of teaching materials. (3) Two experts, one from Japan and the other from Korea, were dispatched in February 2004 to offer instruction and advice on teaching-material development. (4) A management seminar was held in Tashkent for owners and managers of small companies (October 8–9, 2003).

(1st year of a 3-year project)
East Asian countries may be going through a process of dazzling development, but when it comes to the mass media, Western countries are still the world's prime movers. Since 1998 the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund has supported a variety of projects to foster journalists in Southeast Asia. Building on the accomplishments thus far, the present project aims to expand networks of journalists across the entire Asian region and consolidate a foundation for transmitting news to the world from Asia.

The Asian Journalist Forum was held in Bangkok January 29–30, 2004, with the theme “Media, Democracy, and Human Rights.” Discussions were held among 26 participants, including some from Central Asia, the Middle East, and the United States, representing 11 countries. In March 2004 the online magazine AsiaViews, which is jointly produced by editors at five influential Southeast Asian media organizations, was launched (www.asiaviews.org). This marks an initial step toward the establishment of a foundation for transmissions from Asia of original Asian news, uninfluenced by the value systems of the Western media.

Having only become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1999, Cambodia urgently needs to develop a pool of professionals in the economic sphere to cope with the liberalized market-economy environment of AFTA, the ASEAN Free Trade Area. This project sought to provide the professionals dealing with the Cambodian economy with knowledge and a better understanding of the policy tasks involved in the transition to a market economy and the roles played by each economic sector, and also to offer them opportunities to become familiar with the economies of other ASEAN members.

Last year the project focused on a group of 30 professionals in economic fields, including government officials, scholars, and business leaders. To provide them with basic knowledge of the principles of the market economy and regional economic integration as well as to acquaint them with the current state of neighboring economies, the project hosted domestic training sessions in Phnom Penh (October 9–11, 2002) and field training in Kuala Lumpur (February 1–19, 2003).

This year the two segments of the project were enhanced, with the domestic training lasting longer and using more lecturers and the field training offering more places to visit. In the selection of the trainees, the project received the assistance of the Institute of Economy and Finance, an organ under the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

During the domestic training in Phnom Penh October 13–17, 2003, the sessions dealt with such topics as trends in regional economic integration, prospects for AFTA, and the economic policies of ASEAN’s members. There were 36 trainees, mostly government officials, business leaders, and scholars and researchers. The government officials were people in charge of economic policy at the Ministries of Economy and Finance; Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Industry, Mines, and Energy; Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; Education, Youth, and Sports; and Rural Development; and also at the National Bank of Cambodia. During the field training in Kuala Lumpur February 8–15, 2004, 23 of the trainees, mostly government officials and economists, visited such places as development planning and implementation agencies and palm oil farms. They learned about the realities of the modern market economy and the policies of the Malaysian government.

As a result of these activities, it is hoped that Cambodia will seek to formulate market-economy policies framed with a broader vision of international cooperation and the free trade system.
It is widely recognized in Vietnam, where preparations are being made to meet the requirements of the ASEAN Free Trade Area and join the World Trade Organization, that companies must swiftly hone their competitive power. It is not equally well appreciated, however, that marketing strategy is a crucial ingredient of this power. This project aims to upgrade survey and research skills in the marketing field through the provision of support to the Vietnam Marketing Association, whose members are spread widely across the Vietnamese community of researchers.

This year the grant recipients investigated marketing case studies in a group of 37 companies engaged in 12 industries in Vietnam and compiled their findings in a collection of case studies. This resource is already being put to use as a text at a number of universities. Hoping to disseminate their findings to a wide audience, the grant recipient organized a seminar for all relevant parties and began publishing a monthly journal carrying marketing information and scholarly articles. It is expected that these activities will enhance understanding of corporate operations in Vietnam and contribute to the quality of marketing research and education.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

This project aims to strengthen the macroeconomic management skills of Laotian policymakers, who have had little experience with a market economy, while drawing on the record of neighboring countries that have recently passed through the same stage of development.

With its focus on a small group of Laotian policymakers, the project this year offered a one-month training program and five months of practice. The training program (June 23–July 18, 2003) took place at the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research and featured instruction on macroeconomic surveying, forecasting, and monitoring. There were four trainees from the Bank of the Lao PDR, the Ministry of Finance, and the National Economic Research Institute. The trainees then practiced what they had learned from September 2003 to January 2004. In addition, domestic macroeconomic surveys were conducted under the supervision of Malaysian professionals, and the results were compiled in a set of macroeconomic data and published in quarterly reports.

A macroeconomic monitoring unit is soon to be set up in the Committee for Planning and Cooperation of the Laotian government, and it is hoped that this project will help to consolidate a personnel base with a pool of proficient staff members.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

The shift to a market economy in Vietnam and the evolution of a free and open society have increased the importance of journalism. This project gives support to the retraining of instructors and the preparation of textbooks in the departments of journalism at two leading institutions of higher education in Vietnam, the Vietnam National Universities in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

This year, with a view to improving curricula as well as to enhancing the quality of journalism education, the project gave assistance to retraining for 20 instructors at the two universities and also for graduate students. With experts from Singapore as their instructors and activities taking place in Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore, the retraining is to be incorporated into a Vietnamese textbook on journalism scheduled to be completed next year.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
Since the second half of the 1980s the socialist regime in Laos has been pursuing market-economy policies in line with what it calls chintanakhan mai (literally, “new thinking”), and one of its targets has been the development of human resources. As part of this effort, in 1996 Laos opened its first state-managed university, the National University of Laos, with the help of aid from a number of donors including Germany and Japan. In 2002 the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund initiated the project Support for Documentation in Indochina and Myanmar and assisted the new university in the preparation of teaching materials and the training of staff. Educational materials and teachers in Laos are still in short supply, however. This project is addressing the needs in the area of building up research capacity in the university’s Faculty of Economics and Management.

This year, with the cooperation of Japanese, Philippine, and Thai experts, the project provided training on the fundamentals of research methodology to 31 members of the Faculty of Economics and Management. Applying what they learned in this training, the participants wrote four research papers, which are to be published shortly in the journal of the National University of Laos. In such ways this project should enhance the quality of economics and management research in Laos.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

The Caucasus has historically been a crossroads between the civilizations of the East and the West, and the peoples in the region differ considerably in language and religion. Even though a decade has passed since the unraveling of the Soviet Union, the Caucasus has not been able to extricate itself from economic confusion. The peoples of the region are finding it difficult to coexist, since ethnic conflicts have undermined their trust in one another. Obviously the regional countries urgently need to foster a generation of future leaders in the realms of both government affairs and business, and yet they do not have budgetary leeway for spending on training. This project is providing training with a view to promoting domestic stability in the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia), fostering confidence among the region’s countries, and strengthening ties with the international community.

This year the project held a seminar to train people involved in public affairs. This provided an occasion for networking among the young policymakers in attendance, thereby helping to build confidence in the region. In addition, lecturers were sent from Japan and Korea to speak about the experience of the Asia-Pacific region, and this made a contribution to the honing of practical decision-making skills. This is the first project SPF has supported in the South Caucasus.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
This three-year project has been initiated as part of the search in Central Eurasia for ways to stabilize the political situation, build confidence for multilateral security, achieve integration with the international economy, and harmonize development with the environment. The project has two principal components, one being self-operated activities and the other support for activities of the EastWest Institute of the United States.

This year, in the self-operated part of the project the ninth Issyk-Kul Forum was held in Beijing with the cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (October 30–31, 2003). 30 researchers, bureaucrats, and business people attended from Central Eurasia (Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia, and elsewhere), East Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), and Western countries. They announced the findings of their various studies and endeavored to strengthen personal networks. Among the items on the agenda were domestic political trends and the impact on them of international developments (notably the sudden changes since the Iraq war), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, multilateral security, and integration into the world economy.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

Azerbaijan, which gained independence with the collapse of the Soviet Union, still has large and midsize state-owned companies in oil and other industries as the central component of its economy. The country is in urgent need of reforming its economic structure, as by privatizing these state-owned companies, and of improving its corporate management systems to raise productivity. In this context, the present project is designed to enhance corporate governance and management through the provision of opportunities to learn about privatization and corporate management methods by drawing on the experience of Malaysia.

This year, a six-person research group was formed, centered on professors at Khazar University, and it held six meetings from October to December 2003. Selecting 15 state-owned companies for study, the group surveyed and analyzed their management methods and corporate governance. Four members of the group then visited Malaysia (February 11–17, 2004). While making calls on government agencies and going to 10 companies, including the state-managed oil company, Petronas (Petroliam Nasional Bhd.), they collected information and conducted case studies.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
Within the Asia-Pacific region there are both threats to security deriving from cold-war confrontations, such as the problems on the Korean Peninsula and the relations between China and Taiwan, and threats to security that have emerged in the post–cold war period, notably threats countries face from the terrorist activities of Islamic extremists. Even today the countries of the region have no shared mechanism for dealing with such threats effectively. Lacking a common framework, they can only make use of bilateral negotiations or, in some cases, multilateral talks of the six-party type.

This project brought together experts on security in the Asia-Pacific region for discussions over a two-year period on how efforts to achieve multilateral security cooperation should be evaluated. Two workshops were organized in the first year, one in Singapore and the other in Tokyo, at which the current state of multilateral cooperation and the role of Japan received close attention.

This year, the discussion turned to how multilateral cooperation in the region ought to be handled from a perspective transcending the conventional view of security, a perspective taking into account such issues as economic security, globalization, and governance. At a workshop in Singapore September 11–12, 2003, the point was made that domestic and international affairs have become linked in a complex and overlapping fashion, as illustrated by the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

The project was wrapped up with an international conference in Washington, D.C., November 20–21. The participants discussed the future role to be played in security cooperation by existing regional arrangements, which include the Japan-U.S. alliance, ASEAN, ARF, ASEAN plus 3, and APEC. They also discussed goals and prospects for security cooperation in the spheres of counterterrorism, conflict management, transborder crime, and economic and human security. In the sessions on specific themes, the observation was made that domestic and international affairs have become linked in a complex and overlapping fashion, as illustrated by the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

The project was implemented as a joint undertaking of SPF-USA.

In fiscal 1994, the Fund conducted the project Preparation for Establishing an Economic Forecasting Center in Vietnam to support macroeconomic forecasting in Vietnam. The project’s local partner, the Development Strategy Institute (DSI), implemented a program to train both Japanese and Vietnamese human resources in 1996–97 with funding from The Nippon Foundation. At the same time, the Economic Forecasting Center was established within the DSI, and The Nippon Foundation assisted by providing computers, software, and other equipment. In fiscal 2001, the Fund carried out the project Policy Dialogue on Economic Forecasting between ASEAN and Vietnam. The domestic forecasting model developed by the center was further refined, and the conditions for building a forecasting model reflecting linkages with neighboring countries’ economies were clarified.

The present project has followed up on the earlier initiatives. Seeking to address tasks identified by the work thus far, the project engaged in the fostering of human resources and the refinement of forecasting models in Vietnam, drawing on advice from Vietnam’s neighbors.

In fiscal 2002, the project’s first year, two workshops were conducted to provide training on the theory and methodology of constructing models for economic forecasts. The trainees were 25 research personnel working at representative government agencies and research institutes, including the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Finance, and Hanoi National Economics University. With experts from Japan, Singapore, and Thailand serving as instructors, the participants studied the theory involved and also the actual experiences of nearby countries. Later, in assignments making practical use of their training, they gained proficiency in model-building methods.

This year, moving another step forward, the project set up a research team, with 9 of the 25 trainees selected as members. The team undertook the construction of a model reflecting linkages with the economies of neighboring countries, one intended for use in actual economic forecasting. While receiving advice from foreign experts, the team made its own decision on what model-building methods best matched the conditions of the Vietnamese economy, assembled a 44-equation model, and engaged in a series of related activities, such as collecting and processing data for a database and performing simulation forecasts. The simulation results hint at the possibility of practical use of the model, and they also demonstrate that this group of Vietnamese researchers, as a result of their training and practical experience, was able to gain considerable ability in economic forecasting.

The project was implemented as a joint undertaking with SPF-USA.

(Final year of a 2-year project)
The Northeast Asian region, centered on Mongolia, seems to have been left behind economically, though in geopolitical terms it is of considerable importance. Over three years starting in fiscal 2000 SPF, hoping to assist the development of the region and the construction of a regional cooperation mechanism, conducted the project Role of Mongolia for Peaceful and Stable Development of Northeast Asia. The present project is the second phase of this project.

This year, the start of phase II, the focus was on Mongolia’s policy for special economic zones and cooperation with its neighbors in Northeast Asia, and economic experts were dispatched to Ulaanbaatar from China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Korea, and other countries for a workshop (August 20, 2003) and an international conference (February 26–27, 2004). The actual conditions of special zone policy were ascertained in the course of a study tour through the Far Eastern region of Russia and northeastern China (December 1–8, 2003). The papers presented at the conference were published in a report, which was distributed to all relevant quarters, not just the Mongolian public officials and legislators who had taken part in the tour.

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

Interaction for Progress: ASEAN and Myanmar/Phase II
Information & Resource Center (Singapore)

This project is one facet of an effort SPF has been making for several years now to promote dialogue on multiple tiers between Myanmar and its neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

This year, responding to the seven-step “road map” unveiled by Myanmar Prime Minister Khin Nyunt on August 30, 2003, the grant recipients organized a working group of ASEAN opinion leaders chaired by Sukhumbhand Paribatra, a member of Thailand’s parliament and former deputy foreign minister. After studying the Myanmar government’s road map in detail, the nine members of the working group released a set of policy proposals in December. This document was distributed to high-level officials of ASEAN member states, Myanmar included, and also posted on the Internet (www.asiadialogue.com). In an effort to further secure understanding of the content and spirit of the proposals, briefings were made to the head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Thailand and others in Bangkok as possible. A seminar was also organized in March 2004 in Tokyo to disseminate the conclusions of the study.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

3. Research with Tangible Applications

Toward an Asian Economic Community: The Way Forward
Research and Information System for the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) (India)

This project is an educational undertaking making use of policy studies and information transmission on topics essential to the creation of an Asian economic community. It is building on the project Enhancing Trade and Investment Cooperation in Asia: Issues, Policies, and Institutional Reform, which was carried out in fiscal 2002. This year, the proceedings of a Delhi international conference held as part of the project were edited for release in the book Building a New Asia: Towards an Asian Economic Community, which is to be published in 2004 by the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The website New Asia Forum (www.newasiaforum.org) was established to facilitate policy discussion among institutions and specialists in China, India, Japan, Korea, and the countries of Southeast Asia, and New Asia Monitor, a newsletter for sharing the latest information, was published. In addition, a policy research group was organized and conducted policy studies on the themes of Asian monetary and financial cooperation, infrastructure development as a new engine for growth in Asia, and movement toward an Asian energy community.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

3. Research with Tangible Applications

Security Threats in Afghanistan and South Asia—Implications for Japanese Policy
International Crisis Group (ICG) (Belgium)

There has been little information available in Japan on the situation in Afghanistan and surrounding countries. This project aimed to provide field reports on those countries in Japan. Two seminars were held in Tokyo by the International Crisis Group (ICG), a Belgium-based NGO with an established reputation for its research papers, field surveys, and advocacy work on conflict resolution.

At the first seminar, on September 25, 2003, a report was delivered on the structure of the military factions in Afghanistan. The focus of the second seminar, on November 27, was on Kashmir and the current relations between India and Pakistan. It was reported that there are signs that official talks on transportation network improvement, trade, and commercial development may resume between the two countries, although the military situation remains tense. As to the question of who is to rule Kashmir, policymakers are being urged to look beyond an agreement between the governments of India and Pakistan to forge a broad consensus in public opinion, one reflecting the voices of the people of Kashmir.

About 30 people attended each seminar, mainly public officials, development aid specialists, and policy researchers. Seven ICG policy papers on Afghanistan and Kashmir were prepared. They were distributed at the seminars and also delivered to government officials at separate meetings both before and after the seminars.

(A one-year project)