Grant Projects and Major Self-Operated Projects Strategically Target Specific Sectors

Despite a year-on-year drop in project expenditure and number, large-scale self-operated projects targeted a variety of sectors in fiscal 2009.

In fiscal 2009, SPF implemented a total of 53 projects valued at ¥890.69 million. Total expenditures excluding those for internal operations (project operations, program development and research, and communications) were ¥450.44 million for 42 projects, a year-on-year drop for both project number and expenses.

The Foundation implemented more large-scale self-operated projects in specific sectors than conventional projects in fiscal 2009. Supported by a grant from The Nippon Foundation and established in fiscal 2008 to address issues facing maritime nations, the Maritime Nation Support Fund (¥100 million) allocated a total of ¥49.45 million for regular projects and for the Sasakawa Pacific Asia Islands Fund (SPAF). SPF implemented 14 Regular Projects excluding internal operations in fiscal 2009. A total of ten projects, both new and ongoing, were implemented under the New Program Policy adopted in fiscal 2008, as well as four ongoing projects under the former Operational Guidelines.

The Sasakawa Pacific Islands Nations Fund (SPINF) implemented two projects excluding internal operations. In June, the Fund adopted Third Period Guidelines (2009–2013) for its two main areas of focus—cooperation for peace and solidarity between maritime states and cooperation with development towards self-supporting island nations.

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund (SJCCF) implemented 15 projects (seven ongoing and eight new projects) excluding internal operations.

The Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund (SPAF) implemented a total of nine projects excluding internal operations. Five new projects were implemented under the Third Period Guidelines (2009–2013) enacted in September. These projects focused on the promotion of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and other Asian countries, the promotion of regional collaboration, and support to prioritized countries. Four projects were implemented under the former Guidelines.

The Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund (SMEIF) implemented two projects excluding internal operations in line with the Fund guidelines enacted in June for disseminating information from Japan, promoting people exchanges, capacity building, and research on maritime security.

For more information on regular projects, see http://www.spf.org/e/projects/summary2009.html

Recent Projects

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Projects Implemented under the New Program Policy

In fiscal 2009, SPF implemented a total of 53 projects valued at ¥890.69 million. Total expenditures excluding those for internal operations (project operations, program development and research, and communications) were ¥450.44 million for 42 projects, a year-on-year drop for both project number and expenses.

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For more information on regular projects, see http://www.spf.org/e/projects/summary2009.html

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Addressing an Avian Flu Pandemic through Intraregional Cooperation

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine (Japan)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥42,849,987
- Implementation Year: 2nd year of 3-year project

Sharing Experiences and Issues in Combating Pandemics and Pursuing Intraregional Cooperation for the Future

With pandemic flu presenting a non-traditional security threat, this project aims to enable diverse actors in the Asian region to work together across the boundaries that have traditionally divided individual disciplines and nations.

Responding to the increasing threat posed by the avian flu in Asia, this project has been underway since fiscal 2008. In the project’s second year, just as activities were being developed based on surveys conducted in various Asian countries, a new influenza A virus (H1N1) emerged in North America, and quickly became a pandemic that spread across the globe.

Since experiences with handling H1N1 are expected to provide useful lessons in combating new flu strains including highly pathogenic strains of the avian flu, SPF has been conducting trials on flu countermeasures in developing nations and promoting activities aimed at achieving intraregional cooperation. All of these efforts have been based on the latest information available and on the countermeasures being deployed by other international organizations.

Specifically, in cooperation with the Department of Virology at the Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, SPF has conducted trials and analysis on education and outreach for infection prevention in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines as well as on surveillance, and the public health and medical systems in that area.

An international symposium was held in Tokyo on March 23, 2010 to enable the countries of Asia to share their experiences with pandemics and related issues, and to discuss approaches to intraregional cooperation for the future. The symposium was attended by about 30 participants from outside Japan, including policy makers from the ASEAN countries, Mongolia, and the US, as well as experts from international organizations such as the WHO, United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC), ASEAN secretariat, and the Asian Development Bank. Participants engaged in lively discussions with Japanese experts.

The Global Demographic Change and Labor Migration in Asia

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Institute for Human Diversity Japan (Japan)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥35,561,760
- Implementation Year: 2nd year of 3-year project

Adapting to Changes in Population Composition and the Labor Market

In addition to conducting ongoing research on these topics in the context of three individual subcommittees, SPF is inviting experts from various countries to add to the discussion of social integration policy.

Three Subcommittees Analyze the Potential Impacts of Japan Accepting Foreign Laborers

The purpose of this project is to study foreign laborers’ home and host countries and their current status in Japan in consideration of changes in population composition and the labor market, and to make policy proposals regarding these issues.

In fiscal 2009, the second year of the project, three subcommittees continued research on each theme (the labor market and changes in population composition, aging and migrant labor policy, and social integration policy). The first subcommittee completed a basic model, using a general equilibrium model, for conducting a simulation analysis of the impacts of accepting migrant workers. The research committee conducted a preliminary investigation of the results with the intent of crafting a formal policy proposal, and summarized its findings in the Collection of Data on Issues Related to Foreign Workers ii.

Note from the Program Officer

Mieko Okamuro
Program Officer, Program Department

The SPF Population Team is constantly striving to find solutions to the various problems caused by changes in human migration and population composition associated with globalization, and is seeking out new approaches that can be taken by states, cities, and communities to adjust to these changes.

The team’s current core project is entitled Global Demographic Change and Labor Migration in Asia. We are now in the process of addressing the sensitive and polarizing issue of whether Japan needs to accept foreign laborers. To do so, we are conducting field surveys, analyzing policies and systems, conducting international comparisons, and performing simulation analyses. We are also in the process of producing our most comprehensive research results to date, and of drafting proposals for Japanese society as well as for Asia and the entire world.

I am participating in this project not only as a project manager, but also as a researcher on migrant worker policies in China. I am constantly stimulated by the heated debates that take place among the more than 30 researchers and activists involved in this work, all of whom bring their own distinct ideas and perspectives to this project.

I am learning a great deal from the serious and ongoing discussions about the future of Japanese society and the global community.
Promoting Cooperation towards the Challenge of an Aging Asian Society

Implementing Agency: Asian Aging Business Center (Japan)  Project Classification: Grant
Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥5,793,426  Implementation Year: 2nd year of 3-year project

Understanding the Aging Situation and Local Countermeasures in South Korea and China

This project is now in its second year, and Japanese knowledge and experience has been used to develop specific action plans in these countries.

Surveys to Examine Applicability of Japanese Knowledge

First, working groups were established in South Korea and China to examine the applicability of the case studies collected in the first year. Each working group also held meetings in Japan when their non-Japanese members visited the country.

To examine the applicability of the Japanese knowledge of aging to the Asian region, field surveys were conducted in South Korea (Busan Metropolitan City, Daegu Metropolitan City, and Namhae County) and China (Jiading District of Shanghai, Suzhou City of Jiangsu Province, and Chongming County of Shanghai). This study aimed to ascertain the specific status of aging in these areas, to identify related countermeasures, and to explore the applicability of the results produced by the working groups.

As a result of these field surveys, specific action plans regarding the applicability of Japanese knowledge have already been developed. For example, a joint project on health promotion policies and preventive nursing measures will be implemented by Busan City and Fukuoka City, while in China, a request has been made for local leaders in the nursing industry to be sent to Japan for training.

Creation of an E-learning System to Support Foreign Nurses and Caregivers on EPA Preparing for License Exams in Japan

Implementing Agency: The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) (Japan)  Project Classification: Grant
Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥10,100,000  Implementation Year: 1st year of 3-year project

Development of a Learning System and Online Environment to Support Those Taking a National Exam

This project aims to develop an e-learning curriculum for nurses and caregiver candidates who have come to Japan pursuant to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Development of Teaching Materials for the National Exam in Nursing

In the first year of this project, a curriculum for the national exam in the field of nursing was developed (February 2010). A teaching materials planning committee was established, and sample questions for the national exam designed for non-native speakers of Japanese were developed and made available online.

Mentor instructors helped users with difficult questions which could not be resolved online, and mentor services, motivational email distribution, and progress management tools were all made available to support user learning.

The trial version of the e-learning system in the field of nursing was used by 130 candidates (74 from Indonesia, 56 from the Philippines). Three candidates passed the national nursing exam in 2010 (one from the Philippines, two from Indonesia), and the successful Filipina candidate had used the e-learning system. Success on the exam has been linked to the use of the curriculum developed under this project to teach problem-solving and Japanese language skills.

Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Stanford Japan Center Research (Japan), Pacific Forum CSIS (USA), Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (USA)

Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned

Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥20,294,529

Implementation Year: 2nd year of 3-year project

Forging Closer Relations

By facilitating multi-layered exchanges between opinion leaders in Japan and the US, SPF is strengthening the foundations of international exchange and promoting policy dialogue between these two countries.

Promoting Japan-US Policy Dialogue and Forging Closer Relations

This project reexamines the usefulness of intellectual exchanges between Japan and the US and promotes and develops exchange programs that support senior and mid-career experts and opinion leaders who are tackling global issues. This approach recognizes that a closer relationship between Japan and the US contributes to the stability of international institutions and the Asian region.

In the second year of the project, following the advice of the US-Japan Exchange Committee, SPF invited the following individuals to give public lectures: Dr. Peter D. Feaver, professor in the Department of Political Science at Duke University; Dr. Balbina Hwang, lecturer at National Defense University; Dr. Victor Cha, Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Robert D. Kaplan, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security and a national correspondent for The Atlantic; and Dr. Robert Kagan, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

SPF also contributed to the mutual exchange of personnel involved in Japan-US relations by organizing meetings with policy experts and arranging city and regional tours to deepen understanding of Japan.

Exchanges between Young Opinion Leaders

By promoting the development of close relations between next-generation leaders in Japan and the US through seminars and visits of researchers abroad, SPF is fostering and expanding the perspectives of experts involved in Japan-US relations and is helping to cultivate young people with strong communication skills.

SPF organized a panel discussion with Japanese politicians for students of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, encouraged young researchers from Japan and the US to participate in the Young Leaders Program at the Pacific Forum CSIS, and for the first time this year, provided support for the internship program at the Stanford Japan Center.

List of Japan-US Exchanges between Opinion Leaders

- Invitations to Senior and Mid-Career Opinion Leaders
  - Dr. Peter D. Feaver, Professor, Department of Political Science, Duke University (June 1, 2009)
  - Dr. Victor Cha, Associate Professor, Department of Policy Management, Keio University
  - Dr. Balbina Hwang, Lecturer, National Defense University, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University
  - Dr. Robert Kagan, Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security, National Correspondent for The Atlantic (March 12, 2010)
- Talks
  - Moderator: Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Associate Professor, Tsuda College
  - Lecture: The Return of History
  - Moderator: Dr. Satoru Mori, Professor, Hosei University, and SPF Project Leader, Expansion of the Strategic Horizon for Japan’s National Security and the Future of Japan-US Relations
  - Lecture: The Indian Ocean and Geopolitics
  - Moderator: Lieutenant General (Ret.) Noboru Yamaguchi, Professor, National Defense Academy of Japan
  - Lecture: The Return of History
  - Moderator: Dr. Yasuhiro Izumikawa, Associate Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University
  - Lecture: Obama and Asia
  - Moderator: Dr. Satoru Mori, Professor, Hosei University, and SPF Project Leader, Expansion of the Strategic Horizon for Japan’s National Security and the Future of Japan-US Relations
  - Lecture: The Return of History
  - Moderator: Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Associate Professor, Tsuda College

- Japan-US Exchanges and Programs

  - Young Opinion Leaders Program
    - Panel discussion with Japanese politicians for students at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University (March 16, 2010)
    - Published discussion: Future Prospects for Japan and US-Japan Relations
    - Panelists: Hon. Shingoro Kato, Hon. Taro Kono (Liberal Democratic Party)
    - Panelists: Dr. Gerald Curtis, Professor, Columbia University
    - Support for the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program (January 14-16, 2010)
  - Pacific Forum Young Leaders Program
    - Presentation by participating students at the Stanford Japan Center (August 28, 2009)
  - Internship support for American students at the Stanford Japan Center (August 28, 2009)
  - Dispatch of young Japanese researchers to the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program (January 14–16, 2010)
  - Visit: December 6–12, 2008
  - Location: Willard Hotel and CSIS, Washington DC
  - Support for the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program (January 14–16, 2010)
  - Visit: November 22–28, 2009
  - Support for the Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leaders Program (January 14–16, 2010)

Note from the Program Officer

A Catalyst for the Development of US-Japan Exchange Opportunities

Yumiko Nozaki
Associate Program Officer, Program Department

Japan and the US have enjoyed an evolving relationship characterized by alternating periods of cooperation and rivalry. In the early 1990s, trade friction between the two countries worsened. Around that time, when the US was suffering from a deep deficit and a reduction in industrial competitiveness, and Japan came to be seen as an economic threat, research on Japan diminished in the US and many US-Japan exchange programs were launched. Later, the shape of the relationship between the two countries shifted, as US attention turned toward efforts to build relationships with emerging leaders in Asia such as China and India. As a result, concerns grew over a waning interest in Japan.

To address this situation, SPF launched its US-Japan exchange program in fiscal 2008, and undertook specific measures to promote and facilitate closer relations between the two countries. This year, SPF is undertaking a multi-layered portfolio of exchange projects that involve inviting US diplomatic analysts to Japan, and providing support for US graduate school students. SPF is also launching a research conference aimed at encouraging young researchers to find new approaches to security issues.

We program officers work hard every day. Grant projects with US think tanks and other joint projects have just been started with the goal of fostering human resources and disseminating information. Our work is a series of small delights and regrets. We feel deeply appreciative when the US experts we have invited to Japan offer expressions of gratitude, and disappointed when logistics do not go so smoothly. Motivated by the current decreasing trend in US-Japan intellectual exchange projects, SPF hopes to maintain its position as a bridge between the US and Japan, and to continue serving as a catalyst for the development of future exchange opportunities.
Expansion of the Strategic Horizon for Japan’s National Security and the Future of Japan-US Relations

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Project Classification: Self-Operated
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥4,475,144
- Implementation Year: 1st year of 2-year project

Making Policy Proposals on the Mid-to-Long-Term Strategic Challenges to Japan’s National Security

SPF is working to build a strong foundation for a new generation of Japan-US relations by fostering exchanges between young Japanese researchers and US experts.

This project enables promising young Japanese researchers to interact with US experts, to analyze and conduct joint research on the long-term international situation and US diplomatic strategies for the next 20 years, and to make policy proposals encompassing Japan’s future national security strategies. It also aims to build a strong foundation for a new generation of Japan-US intellectual dialogue by allowing future leaders who are involved in addressing global issues in both countries to interact with one another and expand their spheres of activity.

In the first year, SPF established a research group headed by Dr. Satoru Mori, professor at Hosei University, and held discussions in project meetings on relevant issues by inviting practitioners in Japan and US experts on the US grand strategy and geopolitics. SPF also brought Japanese practitioners and researchers to seminars and closed sessions, and sent project members to India and Singapore to share ideas with local experts in those countries.

Through these activities, SPF has expanded its network of young Japanese researchers and overseas (primarily US) researchers and experts. The research seeks to identify Japan’s core interests and to analyze potential threats to those interests. As a result of these activities, research on policy proposal development.

Striving to Promote Understanding through Joint Information Dissemination by Japan and the US

To produce a quantitative demonstration of the close relationship between Japan and the US, this project analyzes data collected from a wide range of fields with a view to presenting the findings in both online and printed pamphlet formats.

The East-West Center (EWC) in the US, supported by the SPF grant, is conducting this project to disseminate information on the multifaceted nature of the Japan-US relationship. EWC will present objective data on the relationship in a diagrammatic format via a website and pamphlets.

In fiscal 2009, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) was selected as the counterpart research organization which would collect and analyze the Japanese information. Next, EWC and JCIE began data collection in diverse fields. Data is being collected on a wide range of activities including trade, sightseeing, sister city relationships, and student exchange programs at the state or congressional district level in the US, and at the prefectural level in Japan. At the same time, the project is analyzing the situations in which Japan and the US have the most direct influence on one another, and will use this as an opportunity to reexamine the interdependence between the two countries by disseminating large amounts of information in diagrammatic, easy-to-read formats online and in printed pamphlets.

Creating Venues Where Japan-US Experts Can Collaborate and Disseminate Information on Solutions to Global Challenges

SPF is creating posts for Japanese researchers at think tanks in the US, promoting mutual understanding and shared perspectives on global policy challenges. An action plan is being developed to make the most of this project to strengthen the Japan-US relationship.

Establishing a Fellowship for Japanese Researchers and Holding a Japan-US Joint Public Policy Forum

Under this project, SPF has supported the establishment of a post for a Japanese research fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a think tank in the US. The project aims to foster and exchange human resources in the two countries who are experts in global policy issues. The project also calls for SPF and the Wilson Center to co-host a series of Japan-US Joint Public Policy Forums.

The aim of establishing a post for a Japanese research fellow is to create opportunities for promising young and mid-career researchers to conduct research in a global context. The Japan-US Joint Public Policy Forum is expected to set the foundations for ongoing Japan-US collaboration on important global issues.

In fiscal 2009, two researchers completed short-term stays at the Wilson Center as Japanese research fellows, expanding the breadth of their research and presenting their research findings to the US policy community. SPF also teamed with the Wilson Center to host the “Japan-US Joint Public Policy Forum—The Japan-US Partnership toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” October 21-22, 2009. The forum provided researchers an opportunity to review previous policies on the themes of nuclear disarmament and deterrence, and to engage in expert-level discussions of the future outlook in this field.

Japan Matters for America (America Matters for Japan)

- Implementing Agency: East-West Center (USA)
- Project Classification: Grant
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥11,421,055
- Implementation Year: 1st year of 2-year project

Strengthening US-Japan Global Policy Partnership

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (USA)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Grant
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥19,736,189*
- Implementation Year: 1st year of 3-year project

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (USA)

Implementing Agency:

Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥19,736,189*

*Of the total project expenditures, ¥10,236,278 were used to support the Wilson Center program “Strengthening US-Japan Initiatives for Common Policy Issues.”
Objective Accurately Ascertain the Impacts of Globalization on Culture and Contributing to the Formulation of Cultural Policies

Focusing on the themes of “culture and economics” in the first year and “diversity and creativity” in the second, project activities included the development of cultural indicator suites and analysis of the impacts of globalization from the perspectives of trade, tourism, art, and the media. In its final year, project activities included the development and analysis of indicators reflected in the theme “heritage, memory, and identity.”

Over the course of this three-year project, methodologies of indicator development were constructed, and indicator-based analysis and implications for cultural policies from a global perspective were presented. As a result, a network of worldwide experts in cultural policies was developed, and this facilitated analyses from diverse perspectives, including those of developing countries and the Pacific islands. The outcomes of this project are being presented in London and Paris, and are expected to be published in the fall of 2010.

Completion and Implementation of an “Early Warning System” to Revitalize and Deregulate Nonprofit Activities

After the terrorist attacks in the US on September 11, 2001, regulations tightened for nonprofit organizations, including those with no ties to terrorism. In response, this project aimed to provide organizational and global guidelines for responding to the situation facing the nonprofit sector, and to promote the revitalization and deregulation of that sector.

In the first year of the project, a series of surveys and consultations participated in this project.

The outcome document was published in The Cultures and Globalization Series.

Curriculum Reform Aimed at the Integration of Islamic and General Education

Islamic boarding schools, which began attracting attention with the rise of the Taliban, have long had a strong influence in the global Muslim community, with some receiving criticism for sowing the seeds of violent extremism. For this reason, there is an international consensus around the idea that providing a balanced education that includes both religious and scientific values is essential to the stability and sustainable development of the nations and regions with Muslim populations.

In southern Thailand, where this project has been implemented, terrorism and violence by militant Islamic groups is intensifying, and the education provided at Islamic boarding schools (Pondoks) has become a point of dispute, with some of the teachers becoming targets of violence. Led by managers and teachers from local Pondoks, efforts have been made to integrate Islamic and general subjects primarily through (1) curriculum reform and the promotion of understanding of those reforms, and (2) workshops for building the capacity of teachers at Islamic schools.