Support and Network Building for Marine Environment and Foreign Exchange

In preparation for the Fifth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) Summit, SPF held a meeting to discuss issues related to the Pacific Island marine environment and exchange students from this region staying in Japan. The meeting concluded with a list of recommendations and suggestions for specific support measures designed to promote the construction and coordination of a network for Pacific Islanders studying in Japan.

International Symposium Features Experts from Six Pacific Island Nations

This project aimed to build a network of students from the Pacific Islands staying in Japan, and to draft recommendations for the PALM Summit, by hosting a series of meetings ahead of the Summit. These meetings addressed issues related to the Pacific Islands and to Pacific Islanders studying in Japan.

On May 14, 2009, SPF hosted the Symposium on Marine Pollution and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Islands. Experts on environmental issues were invited from six countries—Cook Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Samoa. The meeting concluded with a list of recommendations for improving the marine environment in the region.

SPF also hosted the Island Students Assembly in Tokyo on May 20, 2009. This international symposium highlighted the importance of a support system and the need for a stronger network for Pacific Islanders studying in Japan and facing cross-cultural differences. Assembly delegates drafted a list of ten recommendations on ways to facilitate these goals.

Leadership Training, Network Building, and Security Exchanges Among the Diverse Topics Addressed

SJCFF conducts a wide range of activities focusing on five main areas—support for Chinese students studying Japanese in China, field-specific training for leaders in both countries, the promotion of social reform in China, the development of an intellectual network between Japan and China, and furthering exchanges in the field of security.

2009 Program Agenda

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Students of the Japanese Language Can Help Promote Mutual Understanding between Japan and China

As of the final year of Phase III, more than 1,400 scholarship recipients have participated in the project since the start of Phase I.

This project began with Phase I, in 1995 to 1999, followed by Phase II in 2000 to 2004, and is now in Phase III. Scholarships are offered to outstanding university and graduate students in China who are studying Japanese to encourage their enthusiasm for the Japanese language and to help foster human resources who can support the future of both Japan and China.

Scholarship recipients are selected from 13 major universities in China and must demonstrate excellent academic performance and submit quality essays in Japanese. At the outset, the scholarship amount in the year 2000 was 2,000 yuan annually, but with the rise in cost of living this amount was changed in fiscal 2007 to 4,000 yuan (about $560 yen) annually per person. Each year, ten students each are selected from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Shanghai International Studies University, Dalian University of Foreign Languages, Sichuan International Studies University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and five each from Guizhou University, Northwest University, Hunan University, Guizhou University, Nanjing University, Hainan University, Xiamen University, and Shandong University, for a total of 90 students.

In Phase III, a total of 480 students have been selected. More than 1,400 students have received scholarships since the start of Phase I, many of whom have gone on to accept positions in public institutions, newspapers, television stations, and other news organizations, or in the international business departments of large corporations.

The program also tracks past scholarship recipients, updating scholarship recipient lists and fostering networking. In addition, the program prepares collections of short essays written by the scholarship recipients and a general report detailing project activities over each five-year phase, and distributes these to interested persons and institutions, to expand the impact of the project.

Development of Materials to Teach the Japanese Language

To promote the development of Japanese language teaching materials, collaborative editing conferences were held in Beijing and Tokyo, and a series of teaching materials and teacher’s guides have been published.

At universities in China, development of teaching materials that reflect the latest methods in Japanese language instruction and lead to understanding of Japan has been slow. To remedy this situation, the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies brought together the best minds in Japanese-language education in China and, with the cooperation of specialists in Japan, has been working to develop comprehensive teaching materials for Japanese-language majors at the university level.

In fiscal 2009, SJCFF covered the expenses for six Japanese experts to attend a collaborative editing conference held in Beijing and the expenses for five Chinese textbook authors to attend a similar editing event in Tokyo. SJCFF also provided support for Japanese instructors sent to China to observe use of the teaching materials in monitored lectures and provide feedback to the authors on their effectiveness. As a result, out of the planned series of educational materials, three volumes of basic teaching materials and a separate teacher’s guide have now been published by the Higher Education Press.

Healthy Community Construction Project

Improving Health Management Skills and Promoting Community Involvement among Local Residents in China

Based on a Japan-China effort to introduce new health perspectives and train health promotion personnel, this project aims to improve the health management skills of local residents in China, and to promote community activities involving residents for the creation of healthy local areas.

In fiscal 2009, the project selected target communities in Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, for health education activities and recruited a total of 82 health volunteers, with the cooperation of officials in that city’s administration and health department. Medical specialists at Kumamoto University held workshops in Guilin for the health volunteers on local survey and group work techniques.

Seminars targeting local residents featured such topics as “room air and health,” “living environment and health,” and “health problems caused by drug abuse.” Other events included a volunteer exchange meet, a ground golf exhibition and practice round, and cultural exchange activities featuring a kimono trial fitting.

The Kumamoto University specialists also joined with local health department staff and community volunteers to form survey teams that went out to give lectures on the residential environment and health, and to investigate salt content in local diets, water quality in area rivers and streams, the types of medicines available to local residents, and the state of pharmaceutical sales.

Training Program for Japanese Language Learners from Regional Universities

Providing Japan Study Opportunities for Students at Outlying Chinese Universities

With the rapid increase in students taking Japanese-language courses at regional universities in China, this project provides opportunities for study in Japan to outstanding Japanese-language students in areas that would otherwise offer few opportunities for exchanges with Japan.

The objective of this project is to encourage students who are studying Japanese at regional universities, directly stimulating interest in Japanese-language education and contributing to the development of human resources who can support cooperation between Japan and China in the future.

In fiscal 2009, the project selected 20 study participants from six universities in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Gansu Province, and Qinghai Province, based on the results of an examination and interview. The group arrived in Japan on July 27, 2009, and studied until August 24 at the Waseda University Center for International Education.

In addition to intensive Japanese-language courses, the students studied Japan itself, engaged in exchanges with Japanese students, and toured Hiroshima and the Kansai region. The project also prepared collections of short essays written by the participants on their experience in Japan for distribution to universities and administrative institutions.
Offering Japan’s Disaster Recovery Experience to Train Officials in the Sichuan Earthquake Area

This project was developed in response to the lack of disaster preparedness that was evident at the time of the Sichuan Earthquake in China in May 2008. It aims to share Japan’s abundant disaster prevention experience in Kobe and elsewhere to help disaster recovery officials in China to improve their qualifications.

In fiscal 2009, SPF cooperated with the School of Public Administration at Renmin University and the administration of Sichuan Province to invite disaster recovery officials located in regions affected by the Sichuan Earthquake to Japan for training. To begin with, specialists at Renmin University were invited to Japan in late July 2009 to prepare a training curriculum in cooperation with specialists in Japan. In November 2009, a group of 20 government officials from quake-affected areas visited Japan to hear lectures, exchange opinions, and tour quake-related sites in Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Niigata, and Tokyo.

Creating an Emergency Manual Suited to China’s Disaster Recovery Needs

In November 2009, a group of 20 government officials from quake-affected areas visited Japan to hear lectures, exchange opinions, and tour quake-related sites in Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Niigata, and Tokyo. The group visited various sites to learn about Japan’s disaster prevention know-how.

Creating an Emergency Manual for Local Governments in Sichuan Prefecture

Lecture at the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum at the Nokkaden Earthquake Memorial Park (Awaji City, Hyogo Pref.). The group visited various sites to learn about Japan’s disaster prevention know-how.

Curriculum Prepared for Sichuan Province Officials Training in Japan

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Program for Promoting Japan-China Exchange in the Field of Security: Phase II

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, China Institute for International Strategic Studies (China)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥52,381,089
- Implementation Year: 4th year of 5-year project

Exchange Program Featuring 13 SDF Field Officers Visiting China, and 21 PLA Field Officers Visiting Japan

This project has for nine years aimed to build trust in the field of Japan-China security, providing opportunities for uniformed field officers from Japan and China to visit each other’s countries and engage in exchanges and dialogue.

To date, 102 Japanese Self-Defense Force (SDF) field officers have visited China under the program, while 187 Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) officers have visited Japan. In fiscal 2009, 13 SDF field officers visited China over a period of 12 days on June 7–18, 2009, participating in training exercises in Beijing, Urumqi, Turpan, Jinan, Jining, and Shanghai.

The group made a courtesy call on China’s minister of defense, observed Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Force troops, and visited the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Armed Police Special Police School, and Tsinghua University. The itinerary was rounded out with meetings past program participants from China and with ranking officers in each military district visited.

From China, 21 Chinese PLA field officers visited Japan August 26–September 5, 2009. The visiting group paid courtesy calls on the parliamentary secretary for defense, the vice chief of the joint staff, and the commander of the Self-Defense Fleet, observed the Fujiren general military exercises, toured SDF Ground, Maritime, and Air Force bases, and exchanged opinions at the Ministry of Defense, the National Defense Academy, and Hokuriku University. The group also toured private company offices and farmlands, and participated in lectures on Japanese politics and security.

The two groups shared experiences and information through preparatory meetings held before their departure, follow-up briefings conducted afterward, and reports of training program results to their respective defense-related ministries.

Book Translation and Publication Project for Understanding Contemporary Japan

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Editorial Committee for the Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan Project (China)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥9,658,027
- Implementation Year: 1st year of 5-year project

Translating and Publishing Good Books Introducing Contemporary Japan in China

With good information about contemporary Japan in short supply, this project aims to enhance understanding of Japan among the Chinese people by identifying books introducing contemporary Japan, carefully selected by specialists in Japan and China, for translation into Chinese and publication.

In fiscal 2009, a Screening Committee consisting of 10 specialists from Japan and China was established, and committee members utilized their knowledge to draw up a recommended reading list. The translation and publication work was consigned to the Editorial Committee for the Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan Project, a grouping of seven major publishing companies in China.

The Editorial Committee engaged in the full range of book-publication work: selecting translators, checking translated drafts, negotiating with Japanese publishing houses for publication rights, editing, printing, publishing, and sales. SPF provided assistance to ensure smooth development of the project, including supervision of the Screening Committee activities, exchanges between the Screening Committee and the Editorial Committee, mediation in the negotiations on publication rights, and other project liaison activities. For the first year, a total of six books, including A Fifty-Year History of Postwar Manga, were translated into Chinese and published.

Facilitating Dialogue between Future Leaders

- Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, China Association for International Friendly Contact (China)
- Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
- Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥7,287,379
- Implementation Year: 1st year of 5-year project

Fostering Dialogue between Young Chinese Party and Government Leaders and Japanese Government and Business Leaders

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, SPF provided a forum for cross-sectional dialogue among leaders and specialists from China and Japan, on the theme of cooperation between Japan and China to foster a new international financial framework.

China and Japan are developing an ever more mutually dependent relationship, with multifaceted, multilayered exchange and dialogue in bilateral and multilateral meetings at both the official and private-sector level. Cooperation continues to expand in sectors such as economics, agriculture, finance, security, banking, the environment, and food safety. Amid this trend, SPF provided a forum in fiscal 2009 for discussing such issues as international financial cooperation and the upward revaluation of the yuan.

Former Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing headed a delegation from China that visited Japan on December 1–6, 2009. The group consisted of 15 specialists in international finance from the Capital Account Management Department of the State Administration for Foreign Exchange, the Institute of International Economy of the National Development and Reform Commission, State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, the Ministry of Finance, and The People’s Bank of China.

In addition to the symposium held on December 3, the delegation exchanged opinions with officials at the Japanese Ministry of Finance, the Financial Services Agency, and the Bank of Japan, discussing the future of cooperation in the public finance and banking sectors. The symposium proceedings have been summarized in a report, and the results are expected to be reflected in future exchange projects based on practical themes in public finance and banking.

Opinion Leaders in Chinese Media Encouraged to Understand “Life-Size” Japan

The group of 14 individuals visited Tokyo and Hokkaido October 20–28, 2009. In Tokyo, the group visited the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and toured such sites as the materials manufacturer Teijin, the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the Makkahari Motor Show. They also visited a public special nursing home for the elderly and exchanged views with Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper staff. Other places toured included the National Diet Building, Meiji Shrine, Yaskusa Shrine, Asakusa, and Akihabara.

In Hokkaido, the group met with reporters at The Hokkaido Shim bun Press and the Hokkaido Broadcasting Co., Ltd., exchanged views with officials from the Hokkaido government and the tourism department of the Hokkaido District Transport Bureau, and attended a session of the Chitose Tourism Information Exchange Meeting. They also participated in a symposium sponsored by the Hokkaido University East Asia Media Center, exchanging opinions with Japanese media representatives.

The participants blogged daily on their experiences while traveling in Japan. After returning to China, they also wrote articles that were carried in newspapers and on the Internet, conveying the results of their visit to Japan to newspaper readers and Internet users.
Network Further Strengthened as Mainstream Academics in China Join Research

In fiscal 2009, SJCFF continued to support young researchers in Japan and China conducting joint research on “People Who Have Changed Japan-China Relations.”

Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥3,955,416

A project that can soberly resolve the gaps in the public acknowledgement of Sino-Japanese history is essential for resolving this issue, which has been a cause of distrust between the two peoples. SJCFF supported the Japan-China Young Historians Conference to promote mutual exchanges for five years starting in fiscal 2001.

The results of that conference were published in Japan and China under the title of A History of Sino-Japanese Relations, 1978-2008. A Chinese version of Reinterpreting Early-Postwar Sino-Japanese Relations: A Dialogue in History (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2010) was also published, enabling readers in Japan and China to share in the research results. The results of the joint research in fiscal 2009 are scheduled to be published in 2010 in an English annual research report entitled Toward a History Beyond Borders.

Joint historical research is also progressing on an official level, and those results have also been published, marking the first steps toward a dialogue on differences in historical acknowledgement. Because of the inadequacy of measures taken for dissemination of information to the international community on the issue of historical acknowledgement, a multilevel network that includes private-sector initiatives is required to deepen mutual understanding between specialists in Japan and China, and between the two peoples, as well as for disseminating the two countries’ efforts to the international community.

Expanding the Public Relations Activities of the Japan-China Friendship Fund

Implementing Agency: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, People’s Daily Online Japan Co., Ltd.
Project Classification: Self-Operated/Commissioned
Project Expenditure for Fiscal 2009: ¥7,525,454
Implementation Year: 1st year of 5-year project

Project Classification: Self-Operated

2009 marked the 20th year of the founding of SJCFF. It was a year for reflecting on past work, and also for renewal and looking toward the future.

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund

From the perspective of my position, I would say it was a year of “information dissemination.” The year’s 14 projects, both self-operated and grant projects, were conducted with a strong awareness of information dissemination to the outside world. This included expansion of the Fund’s web pages, and enhanced cooperation with the media in China, as well as publication of the project results. Fortunately, information dissemination is the latest trend, and everyone involved has cooperated with enthusiasm. This year’s work brought about a resolution in awareness among the staff, who felt a responsibility to showcase and explain all the activities.

Of course, a change in awareness does not necessarily mean that the work suddenly became more refined. In fact, it often left us acutely aware of how we fell short of our vision. We will continue moving forward by trial-and-error, which is probably just the preparation that we need as we move on to the next 20 years.
Introduction of Private-Sector Evaluations Proceeding in China, with Private-Sector Evaluation Training on a Nationwide Level

This three-year project worked to foster impartial evaluation standards for private organizations in order to build an environment conducive to the development of NPOs. It was designed to provide training in evaluation techniques to government departments overseeing private organizations, and also to the staff of private organizations, and sought to encourage the development of fair evaluation policies.

The first year of the project provided evaluation training to government officials and representatives of private organizations, offered guidance on regional projects, and conducted fact-finding surveys. The second year built on issues that were clarified in the first year of the project, and on the results of experience and analysis in model cities. Workshops were held in three areas (Yunnan Province, Beijing City, and Shenzhen City) to gather opinions from government departments and private organizations. This was followed by a national conference on capacity-building for NPO evaluation in Yunnan Province, in November 2008, and the results were summarized in a published report featuring local examples.

The final year included a training program held in August 2009 in Hefei City, Anhui Province, which attracted 30 participants from government departments, 25 NGO representatives, and seven researchers. Consulting was also provided in Sichuan Province, where private organizations have developed rapidly in the wake of disaster recovery efforts in that area; in Guangdong Province, where supervisory controls over business associations have been relaxed; and other areas with special or advanced circumstances conducive to case studies. An overview of these efforts is summarized by region in the NPO Evaluation Consulting and Guidance Report.

In Guangdong Province, which has participated in the project since the first year, the supervisory control over business associations has been relaxed by evaluations, and the first privately operated private-organization evaluation center in China will be opened there in December 2010. Awareness in governments and private organizations is changing year-by-year in all areas that have participated in this project.