

Foundation

The Japan Foundation London Newsletter

Dancing on the summit

As a cultural response to this year's Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, the Japan Foundation is bringing the Okinawa Classical Dance Troupe to London's Peacock Theatre for two special performances on 29th and 30th June.

Okinawa and its culture hold a unique position in modern Japan. Although administratively the islands of Okinawa have been part of Japan for less than 130 years, they belong essentially to the Japanese cultural and linguistic sphere. Many existing elements of Okinawan culture, especially in the social and religious domains, illuminate the earliest strata of mainland Japanese culture. Nevertheless, a very distinct and independent culture within Japan's broader cultural heritage has remained for many years. It is rich and vibrant and certain aspects of it are still relatively unknown in the UK, in other G8 countries and indeed the world.

Okinawan classical dance was fostered in the milieu of the Ryukyuan royal court. The Troupe visiting London on this occasion comprises many of Okinawa's leading younger dancers and performers. The performance will consist of two parts: several traditional dances and an item from the repertoire of Kumiodori, a genre of music theatre created in the early 18th century under the influence of the Japanese Noh Theatre. The costumes worn by Okinawan dancers are exquisitely designed and the music is provided by singers accompanied by *sanshin* (three-stringed plucked lute), *koto* (long zither), *kokyū* (bowed lute) flute and drums.

The performance is presented in association with the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the Embassy of Japan at the Peacock Theatre on June 29th and 30th at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained from the Peacock Theatre box office only:
Tel: 020 783 8222.



Scene from *Manzai Tekiuchi*

©Hiroaki Oshiro

Message from the Director General

It is almost three years since I was appointed Director-General of the Japan Foundation, London. When I left Tokyo in 1997, interest in British culture was at an all time high with bookshops full of publications on Britain. What also surprised me after my arrival, however, was the large number of Japanese cultural events in London. That year saw the Tatsuo Miyajima exhibition of digital art at the Hayward Gallery, the Tadashi Kawamata installation at the newly refurbished Serpentine Gallery, the Ukiyoe exhibition of works by Hokusai at the Royal Academy of Art and Ninagawa's *Shintokumarū* at the Barbican. The year seemed almost like a mini Japan Festival. I was also surprised to see so many Anglo-Japanese cultural organisations active in supporting these events and helping to make them a success. I soon realised, however, that it was not a phenomenon confined to 1997. These projects were upon the very strong initiative of the British side and this was quite different from my experience when working in Rome ten years ago.

According to the results of our 1998 survey on Japanese language teaching, there were 14,000 students learning Japanese in the UK, an increase of 70% since the previous survey in 1993. Given that it is not a European language, Japanese enjoys a very high profile in UK secondary schools and

almost 140 have chosen to teach Japanese as the first or second foreign language.

Of course, one of the reasons for the healthy state of Anglo-Japanese cultural exchange is the long historical relationship, the sound development of economic ties, the mutual strong interest in each other's culture, and the level of international activity attained by Japanese artists over the past ten years. Of the highest importance, however, is the human connection in the cultural field that mutual projects such as the 1991 Japan Festival have nurtured.

In the London office we should like to fulfil our remit, by paying particular attention to the strengthening of human links between our two countries.

When I first joined the Japan Foundation I was impressed by the remark: "International cultural exchange begins with the exchange of persons, and ends with it". It was made by Shigeharu Matsumoto. He established the International House of Japan which continues to play a leading role in intellectual exchange between Japan and other countries.

I hope and trust that this Newsletter will expand and strengthen the human link between all those involved in UK-Japan cultural exchange.

Munehiro Waketa

Director-General Japan Foundation, London

The Japan Foundation Grant Programmes

The following are the UK results of the Japan Foundation grant programmes for the 2000/2001 financial year:

Invitations to Japan

Fellowship Programme

Scholars and Researchers category

- **Professor J Crump** Director, Scottish Centre for Japanese Studies, University of Stirling. Topic of research: *Nikkeiren and Japanese Capitalism*
- **Mr S Van Eycken** Assistant Lecturer Faculty of Music, University of Edinburgh. Topic of research: *Recent Developments in Contemporary Japanese Music*

Artists Category

- **Mr A Pink** Guest Lecturer, Queen Mary & Westfield College, London University. Topic of research: *Kyogen and Commedia dell' Art: Two Theatres of Actors and Laughter*

Short Term Visitor's Programme

- **Mr Sune Nordgren** Director, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.
- **Ms Lizzie Francke** Festival Director, Edinburgh International Film Festival. To deepen their understanding of Japanese contemporary arts and to encourage future exchanges.

Medium Term Visitor's Programme

- **Dr D Hughes** Senior Lecturer in Ethnomusicology, School of Oriental and African Studies. Topic of Research: *Okinawan Folksong in Transition*

Support Programmes for Japanese Studies

Staff Expansion Grant Programme

University of Sheffield, Centre for Japanese Studies, School of East Asian Studies. Grant towards the cost of a new Lectureship in the International Relations of Japan

Research/Conference/Seminar Programme

- Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture. Grant towards the conference: *Beverage in Edo Period Japan*
- London University Institute of Education, Dept. of Culture, Communication & Societies. Grant towards the international research project: *Pokemon in Five Cultures: A Cross Cultural Analysis of the Reception of Japanese Popular Culture*
- The British Association for Japanese Studies Annual Conference. Grant towards the cost of bringing the keynote speaker from Japan, Mr Kihachiro Kawamoto

Library Support Programme

Book donations to libraries at the following universities: Abertay Dundee, Birmingham, Central Lancashire, Oxford Brookes, Sheffield, Stirling

Arts Exchange Programmes

Fellowship Exhibitions Abroad Support Programme

- Ikon Gallery, Birmingham. Grant towards the project *As It Is* which will include commissions by Kawamata and Shimabuku

Publication Exchange Programmes

Publication Assistance Programme

- Curzon Press Ltd. Grant towards the publication of two works: *Shiga Shigetaka: The Forgotten Enlightenment* by Masako Gavin and *Myth and Masculinity in the Japanese Cinema* by Isolde Standish
- Berg Publishers. Grant towards the publication *The Orient Strikes Back: A Global View of Cultural Display* by Joy Hendry

Publication Exchange Programmes

Film Production Support Programme

Acacia Productions Ltd Grant towards the cost of the production of the film "Under Mt Fuji"

Support Programmes for Japanese Language Instruction

Salary Assistance Programme for Japanese Language Courses Abroad

The Japan Centre, University of Birmingham. Grant towards the cost of a new Language Tutor in Japanese

Japanese Speech Contest Support Programme

The Association for Language Learning. Grant towards the cost of the 2nd Secondary School Japanese Speech Contest

Short Term Training Programme for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese Language

Eleanor Spivey School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield. **Amanda Williams** Warwick School

An intensive 2-month course in Japanese language and teaching methods at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa

Short Term Training Programme for Teachers of the Japanese Language

(for Japanese Abroad)

Naomi Cross University of Durham.
Toshiko Ishizaki University of Leeds

An intensive 2-month course for Japanese nationals living abroad designed to expand and consolidate skills in Japanese language and teaching methods at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa

Japanese Language Programme for Postgraduate Students

Richard Ronald PhD student in Residential Development at Nottingham Trent University. A 2-month Summer Course at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai

Study Tour Award for Outstanding Students of the Japanese Language

The following two students were selected for their Japanese language achievement to participate in a Study Tour to Japan to include language training at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai and other places: - **Alexis Woodfall** University of Portsmouth **Elisabeth Barratt** University of Birmingham

Research/Conference/Seminar Programme for Japanese Language Education

The British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, Annual Conference. Grant towards the cost of bringing the keynote speaker from Japan, Professor Seiichi Makino

Japanese Language Teaching Materials Donation Programme

Donations of teaching materials were made to 39 schools and universities throughout the UK

Local Project Support Programme

Some readers may not know that outside our Annual Programme of Grants the London Office Local Project Support Programme can offer modest funding to local projects and events that help promote a greater awareness of Japan in the UK.

The programme offers grants of up to a maximum of £1,000 depending upon the size and scale of the project, provided it falls within the subject areas in which we work i.e. the social sciences, the humanities and the arts. Applications are invited at any time of the year but the project or event itself must start and complete within the same financial year. Ideally, applications need to be submitted at least one month before the start of the project. •

The Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit

The visit to London of the Okinawa Classical Dance Troupe later this month is just one of a number of events that the Japan Foundation is arranging in the run up to the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit in July.



Talk on Okinawan Food Culture

Dr Hiroko Sho, currently Director of the Okinawa Study Centre, the University of the Air, will be giving an illustrated talk at the Japan Foundation London Language Centre on 21st June. The talk is entitled *Food Culture and Longevity in Okinawa* and it begins at 6.30pm. Those wishing to attend should contact us as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

Tel: 020 7499 4726.

Symposia on the 21st Century

Upon the initiative of the Japanese Prime Minister, the Foundation is organising a series of four international symposia to be held in Kyushu and Okinawa under the general title *Perspectives on the 21st Century* to which scholars and intellectuals from summit member countries and others have been invited. The outcome of the discussions will be communicated to G8 representatives at the Summit itself. The UK will be represented by Professor Roland Robertson, Professor of Sociology at the University of Aberdeen and by Professor James Mayall, Professor of International Relations at the University of Cambridge and of the Centre for International Studies.

Study Tour for Journalists

We are arranging a special Study Tour to Japan for journalists from G8 countries in June and the three UK participants will be freelance journalists Charles McCooney and Martin Thompson, and David Okuefuna of the BBC.

Young Leaders Summit 2000

Paul Morrison of the Centre for International Studies at the University of Cambridge and Roy Head, Editor BBC World Service Trust have been invited by the Japan Foundation to participate in a special Young Leaders Summit in June in Ginowan City, Okinawa. They will be among 33 participants from G8 and other countries. It will be organised in conjunction with the Okinawa G8 Summit Support Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will be conducted in the spirit of the real G8 Summit Meeting providing a forum for in depth discussion on a number of issues of current international importance.

SPOTLIGHT

The Japan Foundation Endowment Committee

Like the Japan Foundation itself, the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee originated in a desire within Japan to promote cultural exchange with other countries and to deepen knowledge about Japan overseas. Its current Chair, Dr Roger Goodman writes:

In 1973 the Japanese Government gave a ¥300 million endowment to the UK for the promotion of Japanese Studies in UK universities. It was given through the Japan Foundation and the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee was duly formed in 1974 to administer the disposal of the annual income.

At that time the study of Japan was principally based in Oxford, Cambridge, SOAS and Sheffield and much of JFEC funding went into the study tour to Japan for undergraduates. Japanese studies in the UK, however, expanded enormously in the late 1980s and for many reasons it was no longer possible to support the study tour to the same extent. Today the emphasis is on support for research projects and workshops of academics working on Japan. Projects are generally funded up to £5,000. Expenditure is closely monitored and outcomes in terms of research output have been excellent.

Over the past 25 years, the JFEC has also given considerable support to graduate students. In the 1970s it awarded some 3-year full studentships and in 1990 again offered three full studentships, matched by two funded by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation (DAJF) but administered

through the JFEC. The scheme was successful academically in encouraging new young scholars but it was not considered financially practicable to continue with three new awards every year. A further award was offered in 1994, and again in 1996. Two new scholarships (again funded by DAJF) have, however, been offered for the year 2000.

Recent years have thrown up funding problems in two other areas. Firstly, while four years is the expected time to complete a doctoral thesis in the social sciences and arts (especially when using a difficult language such as Japanese) funding research councils can support students for only three years. As a result, many students in their fourth year are forced to take a job so that they can complete their thesis and are then unable to finish their thesis because they have taken a job. Many lose momentum at this crucial point in the writing up process.

Secondly, there is the problem of those who leave academia after completing postgraduate work because of the lack of jobs available for those without teaching experience. The Committee is keen to develop more post-doctoral positions to enable such people to stay in the academic world, publish their thesis and to gain teaching experience. Unfortunately, such postdoctoral positions are costly to run.

When the JFEC celebrated its first 25 years in 1999, a history of the Committee and its activities was produced and copies, as well as more information on the JFEC itself, can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Mr Andrew Parrett, c/o The University of Sheffield, S10 2TN. Tel: (0114) 222 1064. ●

21 June	6.30.	Lecture <i>Food Culture and Longevity in Okinawa</i> by Dr Hiroko Sho, Director, Okinawa Study Centre, the University of the Air, at the Japan Foundation London Language Centre. Contact the London office (not the Nihongo Centre) to reserve a seat. Tel: 020 7499 4726
29 & 30 June	7.30.	Okinawa Classical Dance Troupe at the Peacock Theatre
September 2000		Japan Foundation 2001/2002 Grant Programme Guidelines available
19 September – 4 October		Japan Foundation Secondary Schoolteachers Study Tour to Japan
1 December 2000		Deadline for receipt of applications for the 2001/2002 Grant Programmes

Japan Foundation support for Japan 2001

j Everyone involved with Japan is aware of the active preparations for JAPAN 2001, a series of Japan-related cultural, educational, sporting and scientific events to be held countrywide between May 2001 and early 2002. The JAPAN 2001 Secretariat has already had much success in encouraging keen participation at many levels and Japan-related organisations are giving the event every support they can.

The Japan Foundation is planning to lend its financial and/or logistic support to the following flagship events:

- **An exhibition of Japanese Contemporary Art** to be held at the Hayward Gallery, Autumn 2001. Co-organisation and funding support
- **An Exhibition of Shinto Art** at the British Museum September to December 2001. Co-organisation and funding support
- **Kabuki performances** in London, Manchester and Glasgow by the Chikamatsu-za, June 2001. Funding support

Planned during the lead up to JAPAN 2001 is a **study tour** to Japan for a number of UK journalists. We are keen to give our support to any **local film festivals** that are being planned for JAPAN 2001 and, in collaboration with the National Film Theatre, we intend to launch our own series of **film showings**. More details to follow in future editions.

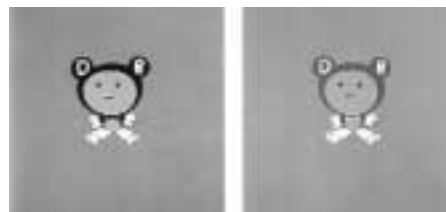
The Japan Foundation Nihongo Centre is planning to launch a series of new programmes to coincide with JAPAN 2001 in celebration of the UK's growing interest in the Japanese language. Among these new programmes will be the creation of a new **Resource Box** comprising a collection of tried-and-tested lesson plans organised by topic level and skill area. In addition, **Starting Young** will be a pilot project designed to give primary school students a taste of Japanese with the aim of creating a short, fun, one-term Japanese language and culture module for Key Stage 2 pupils with accompanying teach-yourself audiocassette tapes for the teacher. A Starting Young INSET day will launch the scheme in September 2001. **Homestay UK** will be a core education project for JAPAN 2001 and will be jointly run in conjunction with the Japan Festival Education Trust. It will give the opportunity to Japanese learners, who are unable to get to Japan, to spend the weekend with

Japanese families living in the UK.

Travelling Exhibitions from the Japan Foundation Collection

These travelling exhibitions introducing aspects of Japanese culture tour on a regular basis throughout the world and three of them are available during JAPAN 2001 for loan to appropriate venues. For further information contact this office.

- **"Painting for Joy"**: New Japanese Paintings in the 1990s 30 works by 9 Japanese contemporary artists. An attempt to show how young Japanese artists have understood and tried to further develop artistic expression in their genre.



I can't touch (blue & red) by Takashi Murakami

- An exhibition by the photographer George Hashiguchi entitled **"Work 1991-1995"** - a collection of 63 photographic panels depicting a variety of Japanese people at work (55 panels 56 x 85.5 cms, 8 panels 65 x 85.5 cms)



Nobuko Nishiyama and Junji Kametani, 2 Milliners, with brief caption on their lives, their dreams, family circumstances, what they earn etc © George Hashiguchi

- **"Japanese Manga"** - a broad cross section of works from 29 major exponents of this popular Japanese culture



Akihiro Yamada's *Oboro tanteicho* Tokyo sanscisha, 1991 from the "Japanese Manga" travelling exhibition



The Japan Foundation

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