

Perspectives

The Japan Foundation London Newsletter

Civil Society or Shimin Shakai

Japan Foundation supports British-Japanese exchange projects during Japan 2001

The terms to describe it are ambiguous, if not misleading, but if we pause to think about civil society we cannot fail to recognize its importance to any developed, democratic nation. Civil society is the space in our lives beyond the family circle and independent of what government lays down, through regulation, and what business takes up, for commercial gain. It is, for example, the football clubs, the sports groups, the trades unions, the churches, temples and religious associations, the co-operatives, credit unions and educational organizations and it includes all those groups who have come together, without thought of securing financial profit for shareholders, for self-help, to promote a common cause or address common needs or to provide a joint response to the needs of others, near at hand or in other countries.

In the UK civil, or civic, society is often referred to as the charity sector, where it encompasses the 250,000 registered charities, or as the voluntary sector, so called because its objectives are not determined by the state.

More recently it is termed the community and social sector. In Japan organizations registered under the Civil Code are known as *koueki houjin* or public benefit juridical bodies. Although they may be non-governmental, many community organizations, which could not aspire to, or might not desire, that Civil Code status, are commonly called not-for-profit organizations, or NPOs, as defined under the 1998 NPO Law or, when promoting international aid or cooperation, as non-governmental organizations or NGOs.

Across a range of different areas Britain and Japan work together as partners to understand each other better and develop a more meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship. Learning to share experiences and information on how we respond to the needs of our own and other societies is an important part of this partnership. Links Japan, an independent non-profit organisation, promotes exchanges for this purpose. Two significant Links Japan projects were made possible during Japan 2001 through generous support from the

Japan Foundation.

The first of these, organized with the Nihon NPO Center, was entitled "Local Government and Civic Engagement". It explored the nature of the relationship between local government and the voluntary sector in both countries through a study tour around the UK, by twelve representatives of Japanese NPOs and local government, culminating in a conference, with the London School of Economics, involving a wide range of voluntary sector experts, local government officials and civil society academics. The background to the project was the devolution to local government in Japan of authority over local NPOs and the development in the UK of local level Compacts, following the model of the national Compact between central government and the voluntary sector which, while recognizing the value of the one to the other, sets out their mutual responsibilities and provides a forum for joint discussion of them.

The second project, Britain and Japan as Partners: Challenges for NGOs, brought to

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To all readers and friends

The 18th of April 2002 was a splendid time for my first landing in the UK with my wife by your national flag-carrier. It was on a very sunny, and uncommonly cloudless day in the green of spring with the trees in full bud, when I took over from Mr Waketa, as Director of the London office. And I vividly remember a flower of which I am so fond was in bloom: the wisteria. My name is Kohki Kanno and I am thoroughly delighted to make your acquaintance... yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Before I arrived I had learned that the banners of Japan 2001 (May 2001 to March 2002) had been streaming throughout the UK. I had also understood that during that period more than 2000 events had taken place, ranging from educational events to people-to-people programmes and that they had won the eyes and hearts of over three million British people. I can therefore confidently assume that you had experienced the very essence of both

contemporary and traditional Japanese culture. Before I left Japan many Japanese people who had participated in these significant events commented warmly on the generosity and kindness of the British people and their love of tradition. This indicates that both our people have surely revitalized the friendship and mutual understanding that has always existed between us. The people-to-people exchanges developed by this event will bring new impetus, and the international amity between us will flow on like the river Thames. My sincere thanks to all those who were involved.

On the other hand, I must at the same time keep in mind the need to promote further the various academic and outreach activities between the UK and Japan. These activities are never as high profile but can become a solid and stable foundation for enduring relations between both our countries in any number of situations. With that aim, our academic

exchange programmes and dialogues need to be encouraged and accelerated more and more.

Needless to say, this task cannot be accomplished by one person or indeed one organisation alone. Several players are required to participate in this academic arena. It is my desire therefore to qualify as a supportive and cooperative contributor in this ambition.

I need your strong and friendly cooperation. I hope to support your initiatives as much as it is feasible and welcome your candid exchange of ideas with members of our staff.

Thank you very much.

Kohki Kanno



Mr Kohki Kanno is the new Director of the Japan Foundation, London

Civil Society or Shimin Shakai continued

London representatives from fourteen Japanese and two Korean international cooperation NGOs for a study tour that centred around a three day conference which promoted mutual understanding of the NGO sectors in both countries, helped establish personal contacts between key individuals and explored common areas for the exchange of information and other cooperation. The results included an agreement on ongoing dialogue and the establishment of a joint website. The importance of promoting understanding and exchanges over NGO programmes in developing countries and over global issues, such as poverty alleviation, environmental and health problems, conflict prevention and peace building was underlined by this project. The visitors learned more about management and capacity building methods and funding and about issues being taken up by international NGOs, who are now largely non-operational and in addition to their practical programmes are concerned with rights, legitimacy, social accountability and campaigning. The British NGOs learned about Japan's policy making processes and how to be involved in advocacy and awareness-raising exercises in Japan.

Phillida Purvis, Director Links Japan

Anyone interested in supporting exchanges in either of these areas, or in further information, can contact Phillida Purvis, Links Japan (Tel: 020 7221 6985 or email: phillida@linksjapan.org).

Japanese Studies

Evaluation of the Japan Foundation's work

At the end of June a two-man team visited the UK to look at the Japan Foundation's work in Japanese studies and specifically to assess the impact of our Staff Expansion Programme.

This programme is aimed at university departments wishing to expand their staffing expertise in Japanese studies and gives financial support towards the salary cost of new posts for an initial three years. Professor Koji Ueda of Tsukuba University and Mr Masayuki Suzuki of the Foundation's Japanese Studies Division in Tokyo visited Birmingham University's Japan Centre and the School of Oriental and African Studies. They also hosted a round table meeting with academics from some of the UK universities that had benefited from the programme.

The meetings were held against the background of recent calls from the Japanese Government for greater accountability, following the downturn in the Japanese economy. This has led to the need for the Japan Foundation, and indeed for other similar organisations, to attempt a more stringent evaluation of their work. Are our grant programmes properly targeted? Are they achieving the desired result? Are there areas in which the Foundation's work can be more effective?

And in the UK the talks took place against a growing need to ensure the healthy survival of Japanese studies. All participants agreed that one of the greatest benefits of the Staff Expansion Support Programme was the opportunity it gave to UK universities to diversify and to consolidate disparate teaching into new fields for Japanese studies. Difficulties in maintaining the posts sometimes remained, however, because of budget constraints. Small university departments such as Japanese were particularly affected and recent moves towards devolved budgeting only served to exacerbate the problem. Overall, however, the programme, if properly researched in advance by the applicants, would seem likely to continue to benefit Japanese Studies in the UK.

All agreed that the Library Support Programme was one of our most effective programmes but that a priority area for the UK was the funding of good and promising students at postgraduate level, the successor generation of Japanese specialists. There was a need to ensure that they can study in the UK and remain here. The meeting also identified a growing demand for the funding of short research trips in Japan in the early stages of a Ph. D programme.

As our new Director Mr Kanno indicates on page 1, the Japan Foundation will be looking carefully at its potential role in setting Japanese studies in the UK once more upon an upward path.

FORTHCOMING BOOK

Jomonesque Japan

by Tatsuo Kobayashi and Simon Kaner

A fully-illustrated introduction to the Archaeology of the Jomon period in Japan, this book explores the complex relationships between Jomon people and their rich natural environment. From the end of the last Ice Age 12,000 years ago to the appearance of rice agriculture around 400 BC, Jomon people subsisted by hunting, fishing and gathering; but abundant and predictable sources of wild food enabled them to live in large, relatively permanent settlements, and to develop an elaborate material culture.

In this book Kobayashi and Kaner explore thematic issues in Jomon archaeology: the appearance of sedentism in the Japanese archipelago and the nature of Jomon settlements; the invention of pottery and the development and meaning of regional pottery styles; social and spiritual life; and the astronomical significance of causeway monuments and the conceptualisation of landscape in the Jomon period. These ideas are

considered in the light of current work in the European Mesolithic and Neolithic, setting Jomon archaeology within a global context.

The book draws extensively on new archaeological information from various parts of Japan, including the sites of Sannai Maruyama, Isedotai, and Komankino, among others. Extensive colour illustrations provide a vivid demonstration of Jomon ideology and creativity.

Tatsuo Kobayashi is Professor of Archaeology at Kokugakuin University in Tokyo and Director of the Niigata Prefectural Museum of History. He has excavated numerous prehistoric Japanese sites and is the leading authority on Jomon culture in Japan.

Simon Kaner is Assistant Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures at the University of East Anglia.

The book will be a hardback with

approximately 256 pages, 200 colour illustrations, and 25 b/w illustrations. It is due to be published in early in 2003.

The work has received a grant from the Japan Foundation under its Publication Assistance Programme.



Pottery vessels of the Katsusaka style, Middle Jomon (c. 2000 BC), Mitakedo site, Tokyo. Credit: Tokyo Metropolitan Archaeology Centre.

The Japan Foundation Grant Programmes

The following are the UK results of the Japan Foundation grant programmes for the 2002/2003 award year: -

Invitations to Japan

Fellowship Programme

Dissertation Category

Richard Ronald: Nottingham Trent University
Topic of research: *The Role of Home Ownership and Home Ownership Ideology in Britain and Japan*

Lee Woolgar: University of Manchester

Topic of research: *Japanese Investment in British Science*

Short Term Visitors' Programme

Dr Stuart MacDonald: Director, Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Architecture and Design

Support Programmes for Japanese Studies

Research/Conference/Seminar Grant Programme

School of Oriental and African Studies, Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions
A grant towards the conference: *Space, Experience and the Sacred*

University of Glasgow, The Scottish Centre for War Studies

A grant towards the conference: *Anglo-Japanese Alliance 1902 Centenary Conference*

The British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS)

A grant towards the cost of bringing the keynote speakers from Japan to the BAJS Annual Conference 2002

Staff Expansion Grant Programme for Japanese Studies

University of Sheffield, School of East Asian Studies. Dr Hugo Dobson

Library Support Programme

Book donations to be made to libraries at the following institutions:

University of Cambridge

University of Kent

Royal Holloway College, University of London
University of Oxford

University of Wales, Bangor

Arts Exchange Programmes

Exhibitions Abroad Support Programme

Grants will be awarded towards the following exhibitions:

Tate St Ives: *Kosho Ito Exhibition*

Kingston University *Tokyo GlamRock*

Ikon Gallery *On Kawara:*

Consciousness. Meditation. Watcher on the Hills

Film Festivals Abroad Support Programme

Grants will be awarded towards the following Film Festivals:

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The 56th Edinburgh International Film Festival
The Sheffield International Documentary Festival

Kaneto Shindo Film Retrospective, Glasgow
University Europe-Japan Social Science Research Centre

International Conference Programmes

Japan Europe Support Programme for Conferences and Symposiums

University College London

A grant towards the symposium: *Europe-Japan Symposium on Regulation and De-regulation of the Financial Market*

Publication Exchange Programmes

Publication Assistance Programme

Oxbow Books: *Jomonisque Japan* by Tatsuo Kobayashi and Simon Kaner

A grant towards its publication.

Support Programmes for Japanese Language Instruction

Salary Assistance Programme for Japanese Language Courses Abroad

Oxford Brookes University, School of Languages (2nd year)

University of Birmingham, The Japan Centre (3rd Year)

A grant towards the cost of a Language Tutor in Japanese

Support Programme for Developing Networks for Japanese Language Teachers and Institutions

The British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ)

A grant towards the cost of the 5th BATJ Annual Conference

Training Programme for Teachers of the Japanese Language

A three-week intensive training course in Japanese language and teaching methods for non native speaking teachers of Japanese from U.S./Canada/U.K. at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa and other places. To the following teachers:

Benjamin Stainer Tile Hill Wood School

Crispin Chambers Tavistock College

Gabriele Harris St. Vincent College

Dieter Verfuert The Holy Family Catholic School

Nicolas Sheppard Elliott School

Japanese Language Programme for High School Students

The following students studying Japanese in the secondary education sector were selected for their Japanese language achievement to participate in a two-week programme in Japan to include language training at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai and other places:

Katie Dingley Tile Hill Wood School

Gemma Vanson Tile Hill Wood School

Claire Drew Tavistock College

Study Tour Award for Outstanding Students of the Japanese Language

The following student studying Japanese in the higher education sector was selected for her Japanese language achievement to participate in a two-week Study Tour to Japan to include language training at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai and other places:

Angela Tam University of Cambridge

Japanese Language Teaching Materials Donation Programme

Donations of teaching materials were made to 42 schools and universities throughout the UK.

JAPAN 2001

The Japan Foundation London office would like to record formally its sincere thanks to the Embassy of Japan, the Japan 2001 Secretariat and to all those throughout the UK who were involved in the organisation of Japan 2001.

It was a year of active exchange between the people of Japan and the UK and gave us the unique opportunity to sponsor and/or co-organise over 100 Japan 2001 events in differing areas of activity from the traditional to the contemporary. These ranged from the Chikamatsu-za Kabuki performances in London and Manchester and the Studio Ghibli film showings to the exhibition of Japanese Contemporary Art at the Hayward Gallery, the Shinto Exhibition and Symposium at the British Museum and the Manga touring exhibition and symposium; support for conferences such as the "Reporting Japan" conference in Cardiff in April – which helped launch the year – to book publications and new initiatives in Japanese language support such as *Homestay UK* and the Japanese language teaching video *Class Acts*.

This extraordinary year has given great impetus to our work in establishing a deeper understanding of Japan in Britain: we look forward to building it further.

Manga: Short Comics from Modern Japan

This Japan Foundation touring exhibition that was such a success during Japan 2001 is now showing in two parts at Sevenoaks Library Gallery, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks and at the Centre for the Study of Cartoons and Caricature, Templeman Library, University of Kent at Canterbury until 10 August.

This final day will also feature a full day of 'Manga Comics Happenings' at both Sevenoaks Library and Sevenoaks Leisure Centre where there will be a chance to experience manga in its many forms: original artwork, video, playstation, comic stalls, manga drawing demonstrations, workshops and music.

For further information call 01732 453118 or 01227823127 and for details of events, talks and workshops linked to the exhibition, contact Louise Pettifer on 01732 746227.

Onnagata: Female Impersonators in Asian Theatre and Dance

In February next year the Japan Foundation will be bringing to London a selection of dance performances by leading female impersonators from four Asian countries.

They are Zhao Zhigang from China, Pandit Gopal Dubey from India, Didik Nini Thowok from Indonesia and Masanosuke Gojo from Japan. They will be appearing at the Place Theatre 21st to 23rd February 2003 and in addition to the Gala Performances on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February at 20:00 will also be conducting workshops, two each on Saturday 22nd February and Sunday 23rd February 10:30 to 13:00 and 14:30 to 17:00.

Female impersonators have played a key role within the formation of traditional Asian theatre and dance and the programme will introduce not only the tradition of the art in their respective countries but will also look at the contemporary role they play within the performing arts of Asia.

More information will be available later this year direct from the Place Theatre, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1H 9AB and from the Japan Foundation.

KON ICHIKAWA FILM SEASON

2 August – 27 September 2002

A two month season dedicated to one of the most gifted directors in Japanese film history. Along with Ozu, Mizoguchi and Kurosawa, Ichikawa's influence and contribution to world cinema has been immense.

Offering 24 of the great director's films, this retrospective season will include screenings of *An Actor's Revenge* and *Conflagration*.

National Film Theatre, South Bank Waterloo London SE1 8XT.

Box Office: 020 7928 3232. www.bfi.org.uk/nft

All tickets cost £7.20, student concessions are available.

Films

Mr Pu (Pu-San)

Fri 2 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Tue 6 Aug 8.30 NFT2

A Billionaire (Okuman Choja)

Sun 4 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Wed 7 Aug 8.45 NFT2

The Heart (Kokoro)

Mon 5 Aug 6.15 NFT2; Fri 9 Aug 8.30 NFT2

The Burmese Harp (Biruma No Tategato)

Mon 5 Aug 8.30 NFT1; Thu 8 Aug 6.20 NFT2;
Fri 9 Aug 2.15 NFT2

Punishment Room (Shokei No Heya)

Wed 7 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Sat 10 Aug 8.30 NFT2

Bridge of Japan (Nihonbashi)

Fri 9 Aug 6.20 NFT2; Sat 17 Aug 8.30 NFT2

A Full-Up Train (Man'in Densha)

Sat 10 Aug 5.30 NFT1; Tue 13 Aug 8.15 NFT2

Conflagration (Enjo)

Sun 11 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Mon 12 Aug 8.45
NFT1; Wed 14 Aug 8.45 NFT2

Odd Obsession (aka The Key) (Kagi)

Mon 12 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Thu 15 Aug 8.45
NFT1

Fires on the Plain (Nobi)

Wed 14 Aug 6.20 NFT1; Fri 16 Aug 2.30 NFT2,
Sun 18 Aug 6.15 NFT2

A Woman's Testament (Jokyo)

Sun 25 Aug 6.30 NFT1; Thu 29 Aug 8.45 NFT1

Bonchi

Sun 25 Aug 8.45 NFT1; Fri 30 Aug 8.45 NFT1

Her Brother (Ototo)

Sun 1 Sept 8.45 NFT1; Wed 4 Sept 8.40 NFT2

Ten Dark Woman (Kuroi Junin No Onna)

Mon 2 Sept 6.30 NFT1; Fri 6 Sept 8.50 NFT1

The Outcast (aka The Sin) (Hakai)

Tue 3 Sept 8.45 NFT1; Fri 6 Sept 6.15 NFT2

I am Two (aka Being Two Ain't Easy) (Watashi Wa Nisai)

Tue 3 Sept 6.15 NFT2; Sun 8 Sept 8.45 NFT1

An Actor's Revenge (Yukinojo Henge)

Fri 6 Sept 2.20 NFT2; Sat 7 Sept 8.40 NFT1;
Mon 9 Sept 6.15 NFT1

Alone on the Pacific (Taiheiyo Hitoribotchi)

Sat 7 Sept 6.20 NFT2; Wed 11 Sept 6.20 NFT2

Money Talks (Zeni No Odori)

Mon 9 Sept 8.40 NFT2; Wed 11 Sept 8.40
NFT2

Tokyo Olympiad (Tokyo Orimpikku)

Tue 10 Sept 7.00 NFT3; Sun 15 Sept 7.00 NFT1

The Wanderers (Matatabi)

Thur 12 Sept 8.30 NFT3; Fri 13 Sept 2.30
NFT2; Sat 14 Sept 8.40 NFT2

I Am a Cat (Wagahai Wa Neko De Aru)

Sat 14 Sept 6.20 NFT1; Tue 17 Sept 8.40 NFT3

The Makioka Sisters (Sasameyuki)

Mon 16 Sept 8.40 NFT2; Tue 17 Sept 6.00
NFT2

Dora-Heita

Wed 25 Sept 6.20 NFT2; Fri 27 Sept 8.40 NFT2

The Festival has received assistance from the Japan Foundation



A scene from *An Actor's Revenge*