

FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
United States-Japan Conference on Cultural  
and Educational Interchange  
July 31, 1986  
Tokyo

1. The 13th U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) took place in Tokyo at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs July 29-31, 1986. Co-chairmen were Mr. Isao Masamune, Advisory Director of the Industrial Bank of Japan, and Mr. Garrett N. Scalera, President of the Tokyo Institute for Policy Studies (on behalf of Chairman Dr. W. Glenn Campbell). Prominent individuals from both countries attended as delegates, consultants and observers, including representatives from government, cultural and educational institutions, mass media and the publishing community, visual and performing arts, business and foundations. The meeting marked the 25th anniversary of the Conference. It received congratulatory messages from Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, President Ronald Reagan, Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, Education Minister Masayuki Fujio and Ambassador Michael J. Mansfield.

2. The Conference noted considerable progress in fulfilling the recommendations made to the 12th CULCON in 1984, thanks to the efforts of many private and government organizations. The Conference also noted that the work of each subcommittee had been made more effective thanks to the concrete nature of their action recommendations.

3. In discussing the role of CULCON in the context of U.S.-Japan relations, the Conference noted that in the 25 years of its existence CULCON has played an important role in expanding cultural and educational exchange and mutual understanding between the two countries. As the bilateral relationship becomes closer, however, tensions arise as differences in each nation's society, economy, and culture come into sharper focus. Therefore, the delegates agreed that even greater efforts are necessary to promote mutual understanding at all levels. The Conference noted that CULCON's distinguished panel and subcommittee members can make an even more significant contribution by identifying problems and proposing solutions on a continuing basis and by demonstrating through their own activities their commitment to cultural and educational interchange.

4. The Conference emphasized the necessity of more intensive and systematic work at the grass-roots level to increase mutual understanding. The delegates agreed that such activities not only should be extended to all parts of both countries but should be conducted in accord with the

circumstances that prevail in each location of exchange activity. The delegates underlined the importance of sister city and sister school relationships and the desirability of using concrete, effective models for such relationships. The Conference noted with satisfaction that much progress had been made toward establishing regional exchange networks and support systems, as recommended at the 1984 sessions, such as establishment of the U.S.-Japan Parliamentary League for Sister Cities and the International Exchange Association in the United States and moves toward setting up an Association for Japan-U.S. Community Exchange in Japan. The Conference pointed out the relationship between youth exchange and the full range of grass roots activities. Effective grass roots level relations require voluntary participation by local citizens and linkages involving the widest possible representation of community organizations. The delegates expressed satisfaction with the significant progress made in this area in recent years and urged continued effort for the future. They welcomed the Japanese Government's donation of \$3 million to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (\$1 million of which went to the Japan Society in New York) for community and regional programming at the time of Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to the United States in April 1986.

5. The Conference took pleasure in noting the Home Stay Tax-Deduction measure introduced by the Japanese Government to promote youth exchange. It also expressed strong support for the YFU-managed Japan-U.S. Special Exchange Project (Senate Scholars) and the AFS-administered Special High School Exchange Programs subsidized by the Japanese Government. It also praised the Prefectural Scholars Exchange Program funded by the U.S. Government and the work of other private youth exchange programs, which do so much to broaden mutual understanding among young people.

6. The delegates praised the efforts of the Japanese Ministry of Education and the U.S. Department of Education, which produced the bilateral cooperative study of education proposed at the 1984 meetings. In view of the important role of education in promoting mutual understanding, the Conference stressed the need to increase exchanges of students, teachers and administrators as well as sister school relationships.

7. The Plenary took special note of the results of the Japan-U.S. Sister Station Conference held in January 1985 in Hawaii. It also expressed its interest in exchanges of broadcast professionals, co-productions, increased cooperation in news and feature coverage, technological innovation, program exchange and joint research -- all important because of the profound influence of television in shaping images of each other.

8. In accordance with the decision of CULCON in 1984, the Conference welcomed the establishment of the Performing Arts Exchange Subcommittees. It emphasized that the subcommittees should develop practical measures to expand opportunities to present contemporary original performing arts works in regional cities as well as in major population centers. It was hoped that this approach would stimulate creative activities in each country. The Conference also encouraged the cooperation of concerned private and public organizations in the two countries in promoting exchanges of performing artists.

9. The Conference noted substantial progress in the exchange of museum exhibitions, which have increased greatly in number during the past two years. Exhibitions represented a wider range of subjects, such as modern art, photographs and folk art, and traveled to more smaller cities. The important work of the Japan Foundation, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and a number of private sector institutions in furthering exchanges of arts and cultural events was commended by the Conference. It further noted with appreciation the implementation of the 1984 CULCON recommendation by the Japan Foundation to invite American curators and art critics to Japan. Two international symposia inviting curators from the United States proved successful and the need for continued progress in this area was underlined by the Conference. The year 1986 might be seen as a watershed for major U.S. exhibitions of Japanese art. Among the many notable exhibitions mounted in America were "Tokyo: Form and Spirit" at the Walker Art Center and the Chicago Art Institute's showing of treasures from Todaiji.

10. The Conference reiterated the importance of Japanese studies and American studies in promoting mutual understanding, and expressed its desire that the private sectors and Governments of both countries continue to foster their development. It welcomed the increased funds being made available by the Japan Foundation for Japanese studies in the United States, including intermediation of private donations, and the continuing work of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission in promoting American studies in Japan. The delegates welcomed the plan of the Ministry of Education to establish an international research center for Japanese studies. The delegates also urged continued dialogue and cooperation among academics and academic associations in both countries to promote American studies.

11. The Conference applauded efforts to promote Japanese language education in the United States and English language in Japan at the secondary level. It further welcomed the Japanese Government's plan to institute a program of inviting many young foreigners to Japan for English teaching and other exchange

activities at Japanese secondary schools and other institutions, starting in FY 1986. To improve the teaching of Japanese in the United States at the secondary level, the delegates agreed that Japanese language teachers should be exchanged through sister school affiliations and other mechanisms. The Conference expressed its approval of the plan to train Japanese language teachers at Japan's national universities and of Ministry of Education scholarships for U.S. students majoring in Japanese. They also welcomed the activities to promote Japanese language learning carried out by the Japan Foundation, such as its program of inviting U.S. high school teachers to Japan and its plan to establish an international institute for the Japanese language. The delegates also endorsed the work of the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies and its goal of finding a permanent home.

12. The Conference praised the work of the Ad Hoc Publications Committee, which was established in accordance with the decision of the 1984 meeting. The ad hoc committee presented an ambitious proposal to translate Japanese books and other Japanese writing for the American market and to promote direct communication between U.S. and Japanese publishers for this purpose. Given the importance of this group's mission to improve publication exchange and promote mutual understanding, it was decided to give it the status of a standing subcommittee. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the group's assistance in preparing the bilateral book exhibit "Changing Perceptions: U.S.-Japanese Books, 1850-1986," which coincided with CULCON XIII.

13. The delegates urged further exchanges of newspaper writers, editors and other journalists. They also encouraged bilateral cooperation in the training of journalists in both countries. They noted the significant contributions made by the News Media Subcommittees in this area. They agreed that changing the name of the News Media Subcommittee to the Press Subcommittee would clarify its objectives. They also encouraged the Asia Foundation to continue its efforts to improve distribution of its translations of Japanese newspaper articles in the United States, and expressed satisfaction at the increased interest in translations among various parties in the U.S.

14. The delegates approved the subcommittees' recommendations, and agreed to hold CULCON XIV in Washington. They noted with special pleasure that both sides had made substantial progress towards realizing their mutual intention, expressed at the 1984 meeting, of making CULCON a more constructive and action-oriented instrument to strengthen binational understanding.