

CULCON XVI

April 29-30, 1993

U. S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)

Joint Statement

The U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), comprised of representatives from the Japanese and U.S. governments and from business, academe and other aspects of public life, convened for CULCON XVI at the State Department in Washington, D.C. on April 29 and 30, 1993.

CULCON XVI was co-chaired by Dr. Kenneth B. Pyle, Professor of History and East Asian Studies, University of Washington, and Mr. Shoichi Saba, Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation.

Initiated by an agreement between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Ikeda in 1962, CULCON has served to focus official and public attention in both the United States and Japan on the vital cultural and educational underpinnings of the bilateral relationship.

The conference received congratulatory messages from President Clinton and Prime Minister Miyazawa for enhanced cultural and educational exchanges. It welcomed the recent initiatives taken by the Prime Minister in cultural and educational exchange, including increased placements in the United States of teaching assistants for Japanese language, increased opportunities to visit Japan for American researchers and others, educational exchanges at state and federal levels, cooperation in the implementation of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship once enacted and restoration of Japanese traditional art in the United States. The conference then welcomed the initiatives taken on the U.S. side. These included the publication of the first five volumes of the **Library of Japan**, the publication of **On The Record**, a media directory of Japan specialists in the United States, and the Japan-U.S. Performing Arts Collaborations Project.

After reviewing progress since CULCON XV, held in Tokyo in 1991, delegates discussed four issues: undergraduate educational exchange; television and other media cooperation; citizen exchange; and future topics.

Undergraduate Educational Exchange

Following review of surveys carried out on both sides, the panels agreed to the need to significantly increase the number of American undergraduate students studying in Japan in order to build better understanding and closer relations between the two countries.

There was much discussion among panelists and input from observers. In response to the U.S. proposal to develop junior year abroad programs in Japan with the purpose of substantially expanding the number of American students studying in Japan, the Japanese side expressed interest in working toward increasing the number of junior year abroad programs at Japanese universities, especially national universities. The American side supported this strongly.

The American side also expressed the hope that the effort to expand substantially the number of American students studying in Japan would include a broad range of educational strategies, including the possibilities presented by American consortial efforts and branch campuses.

The panels recommended that a survey be conducted of curriculum and study abroad trends to further identify the needs of American students and also recommended that based on the findings of this survey, Japanese universities take the initiative to develop appropriate programs and curriculum for the improvement of junior year abroad programs. They also recommended that universities on both sides of the Pacific cooperate to promote undergraduate student exchanges and study abroad, including the implementation of pilot projects.

The panels recommended that the governments of both countries, with the collaboration of the Japan-United States Educational Commission, work together to expand training programs for university personnel, especially administrative staff involved in exchange and study abroad programs.

Because language ability is crucial to the success of study in a foreign country, it is necessary for both sides to work actively in the public and private sectors to improve the language ability of students.

The panels recommended that an ad hoc working group from both countries be established to explore ways to achieve the above goals. This working group would encourage higher education associations in both countries to engage in consultations that outline: exchange and study abroad program organization and format that will assure quality; funding responsibility of each side; model curricula; and constraints to implementing exchange and study abroad programs. The consultations would ultimately lead to an umbrella agreement defining solutions to the above issues. In this regard, the experience gained in the process of establishing a cooperative relationship between Japan's National Universities Association and its Australian counterpart, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) should prove invaluable.

The working group would help define the structure of a binational clearinghouse mechanism to assist institutions and students in both countries. Its functions would include such activities as providing detailed information on junior year abroad and study abroad programs and curriculum and providing counseling and facilitative services.

The two sides agreed to periodic review of progress for all of the above.

Television and other Media Cooperation

Delegates reviewed and discussed two surveys commissioned by CULCON. The U.S. panel noted that a major project has been completed to implement the first recommendation of the U.S. Panel-commissioned study, namely, the compilation of **On The Record**, a media directory of Japan specialists in the United States that has been distributed to approximately 1,000 U.S. media professionals.

After much discussion and input from both panels as well as observers from the floor, the panels recommended that a similar media directory of Japan specialists in Japan be compiled for American journalists. The panels also considered as useful a comparable directory of American specialists for the Japanese media.

The panels concurred on the significance of a joint U.S.-Japan program to introduce the Japanese communication style on TV to Americans and the American communication style to Japanese, thereby improving understanding of each other.

The panels also recommended the expansion of ongoing U.S.-Japan seminars that will examine ways to identify and overcome specific problems encountered in coproduction of news programs, as well as exchanges and short-term training projects for producers.

Finally, on the American side much interest was expressed in encouraging further work in joint and cooperative TV productions.

The panels recommended formation of a working group to explore the many suggestions and recommendations contained in the studies and discussions and report its findings back to the full CULCON body in a year. The formation of the group, which will include representatives of the media, is to be determined by mutual consultation of the two chairmen.

Citizen Exchange

The two panels reviewed two surveys conducted on the subject. They recognized the importance of such exchanges to maintaining a strong and healthy bilateral relationship.

Future Topics

The need to study American studies in Japan and Japanese studies in the United States, particularly in their relation to contemporary social and political issues, was discussed. A report will be made to CULCON upon completion of studies now underway on these two fields. The need to encourage and expand Japanese language education in the United States, especially at the primary and secondary levels, was recognized, as was the need for greater access to ongoing research and its results, especially that published in Japanese. Pre-assignment training for professionals assigned to duty in the other country was discussed, especially with an eye to setting standards. A call was made for a report on the need for research access and pre-assignment training. Finally, the work of the Japan Performing Collaborations Project was noted; the panels discussed the possibility of expanding its work to Japan.

Of the many topics offered, CULCON concluded that it wished to continue focusing attention on undergraduate exchanges and agreed to form a binational working group to oversee their continued development. It also agreed to establish a working group on television cooperation to be formed by mutual consultation between the two chairmen. CULCON will urge all parties concerned to follow up on Japanese language education in the United States as a high priority, and will use all necessary means including the formation of a working group.

For more information, call Pamela Fields at (202) 275-7712

Surveys Reviewed at CULCON XVI

- Berger, Michael. *U.S.-Japan Television Coverage*. November, 1991.
- DeCoker, Gary. *American Universities and Consortia Offering Junior-Year Abroad Programs For American Students In Japan*. June, 1992.
- DeCoker, Gary, Yoshiaki Nakano and Chizuko Tezuka. *Japan-United States Undergraduate Exchange Project*. June, 1992.
- Herrin, Carl A. and Carolyn Lantz. *Japan-United States Grassroots Exchanges: Trends, Opportunities and Barriers*. December, 1992.
- Homma, Nagayo. *Comprehensive Research On the Admission of American Undergraduates to Japanese Universities*. March 1993.
- Iwao, Sumiko. *U.S.-Japan News Programs*. March, 1993.
- Liason Group, The. *Japan-United States Academic Exchanges: Trends, Opportunities and Barriers*. September, 1992.
- Yamamoto, Tadashi. The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. *Integrative Summary of the Reports on Japan-Related Activities of 25 States*. 1992.

CULCON Panelists

U.S. Panel:

Chairman:	
Dr. Kenneth Pyle	Professor of History and East Asian Studies The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies University of Washington
Panel Members:	
Mr. David Hitchcock	
Mr. Winston Lord	Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs U.S. Department of State
Mrs. Pauline Naftzger	
Dr. William Schneider, Jr.	President International Planning Services, Inc.
Mr. David Sexton	Senior Executive Vice President Yamaichi International America, Inc.
Dr. John Tsu	Regent John F. Kennedy University
Mr. R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.	Editor-in-Chief The American Spectator
Professor Robin Winks	Randolph W. Townsend Chair Department of History Yale University
	Director, United States Information Agency
	Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education U.S. Department of Education

Japan Panel:

Chairman:	
Mr. Shoichi Saba	Advisor to the Board Toshiba Corporation
Panel Members:	
Mr. Isao Amagi	President Institute for Democratic Education
Mr. Yoshikazu Hasegawa	Director-General Science and International Affairs Bureau Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
Professor Nagayo Homma	Professor Tokyo Women's Christian University
Mr. Hideo Ishihara	President IBJ Leasing Co., Ltd.
Professor Sumiko Iwao	Professor Keio University
Ambassador Kunio Katakura	Senior Vice President The Japan Foundation
Mr. Takayuki Kimura	Director-General Department of Cultural Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ken Kurahashi	Professor Emeritus Waseda University
Ambassador Yasuhiko Nara	Senior Advisor, Kodansha Inc., and Advisor, Merrill Lynch Japan Inc.
Mr. Toshiaki Ogasawara	Chairman The Japan Times