

# CULCON XVIII

MAY 8-9, 1997

## Joint Statement

The US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), comprised of representatives from the Japanese and US governments and from business, academe and other aspects of public life, convened for CULCON XVIII at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on May 8 and 9, 1997.

CULCON XVIII was co-chaired by Dr. Richard J. Wood, Dean, Yale Divinity School, 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 Hashimoto. Both messages called for a wide range of people-to-people exchanges.

### Arts and People-to-People Exchanges

The panelists recognized the recent initiatives taken by the Japanese government in arts and people-to-people exchanges. These included increased funding for bringing Japanese art to the United States, increased opportunities to visit Japan for American elementary and secondary school teachers, through the new Fulbright Memorial Program; and a major exhibition of American art in Japan, aiming at 2001. The Japan side mentioned the need for assistance in securing additional funding and insurance for this latter exhibition, and the US side offered to provide all possible assistance.

The panelists recognized the work of the Fulbright Program, celebrating its 50th anniversary. They then welcomed both on-going and recent initiatives taken on the US side, including the International Visitors Program and two new initiatives: the Mansfield Fellowships, a program to develop a corps of US government employees who know Japan; and a grant to Youth For Understanding, which will send US high school students to Okinawa for their short-term study program. The US side also announced a program to encourage long-term linkages between US and Japanese non-governmental organizations and applauded the efforts in Japan to enable qualified non-governmental organizations to acquire a firmer legal base for more dynamic programming.

After reviewing progress since CULCON XVII, held in Tokyo in 1995, delegates discussed four issues: undergraduate educational exchange; information access; CULCON and the 21st century; and future topics.

## Undergraduate Educational Exchange

The panels reiterated the need to increase significantly the number of American undergraduate students studying in Japan, a CULCON priority since 1991, in order to build better understanding and closer relations between the two countries. The panels celebrated the progress that has been made in this area over the past two years on both sides.

First, the US side reported on its progress. The Japan-US Friendship Commission has provided funds for a "clearinghouse," whose functions will include such activities as providing detailed information on study abroad programs and curriculum, and providing recruitment, counseling and other facilitative services. This fulfills the mandate from the joint statement issued in December, 1993, by the CULCON Joint Working Group on Undergraduate Educational Exchange.

Second, on the US side, the Japan-US Friendship Commission and the US Department of Education have provided funds for another US initiative, the Faculty and Curriculum Development Project at US institutions, the goal of which is to develop a corps of faculty members who are sensitized to Japan-related issues and can incorporate material about Japan into regular curricula, especially where full-fledged Japan studies and Japanese language programs are not available. Such faculty will encourage their students to study in Japan.

The Japan side reported on the progress of its new scholarship system, "the short-term student exchange promotion system." Under it, in Fiscal Year 1996, Japan provided financial support for 546 US students, 514 of whom were undergraduates. The Japan side also reported on the development of special courses taught in English for semester- or year-long programs for exchange students at Japanese national universities. Eight national universities have already established such special programs, and three additional universities are preparing to begin such courses in autumn, 1997.

Both sides applauded progress at the national universities and agreed to support the continued development of such courses taught in English. The US side recommended the opportunity for continued dialog among representatives from the various programs at Japanese national universities and US faculty and administrators. The US side also urged the Japan side to expand the participation of students not only from individual colleges and universities but also from various consortia of US schools to facilitate the flow of students to programs in Japan.

The panelists called for the continuation of the CULCON Undergraduate Educational Exchange Working Group for the further development of high quality undergraduate exchange projects.

The Japan Panel stated that the number of foreign faculty at Japanese national universities is increasing each year. The Ministry of Education expects Japanese national universities to be internationalized by this increase and other means.

The US panel submitted a set of written questions concerning the compensation of foreign professors who had been terminated at Japanese national universities prior to eligibility of pension and concerning the Ministry of Education's efforts to internationalize Japanese national universities.

In discussing the optimal conditions for increased flow of students between the two countries, the Japan Panel expressed concern over a report that more Japanese student visa applications are being rejected by the US Embassy. The US Panel noted that ninety five percent of all student visa applications are granted and that this figure has held steady for the past seven years. The Embassy is committed to transparency in the student visa process.

### **Access to the Information Highway**

The panels reviewed progress of the CULCON Access to the Information Highway Working Group. The Japan chair of the Working Group presented seven action items on behalf of the Working Group. In order of priority, the items are:

#### **1. Japanese Bibliographic Databases**

To make essential Japanese bibliographic databases, especially JMARC, Zasshikijisakuin, and the NACSIS union catalog databases, easily accessible through the Internet and other channels with fee structures and payment mechanisms supportive of use outside of Japan.

#### **2. Government Documents**

To make available on-line through the Internet and other channels government-related documents, such as statistics, ministry and committee reports, and policy papers that are publicly available.

To make efforts on both the US and the Japanese sides for developing user-friendly systems for referencing, and for archiving, governmental and other useful data that is publicly available on-line, through the Internet and other channels.

#### **3. Document Delivery Services**

To improve the document delivery services for overseas requests by libraries and information service institutions in Japan and the United States.

#### **4. Training Program for Users of Japanese-Language Resources**

To support training programs for US information professionals and users in the use of Japanese-language resources, so that the available resources are more widely accessible outside of Japan

#### **5. Reading Japanese Text on Non-Japanese OS Hardware**

To encourage the further development of widely available and inexpensive software that allows the reading and/or manipulation of Japanese text on non-Japanese OS hardware.

#### **6. Newspaper, Journal Articles**

To add to the information available through the Internet and other channels a menu of services of indexes and the full texts of newspaper and journal articles. This information should be made

available under fee structures and payment mechanism supportive of use outside of the country of origin.

## **7. Translation of Japanese to English**

To call for the development of software for the effective machine translation of Japanese into English, so that the available Japanese resources are more widely accessible outside of Japan.

The US chair of the Working Group reported on the following:

1. A subcommittee has been formed of the ARL/AAU project to improve international document delivery of inter-library loan services. This subcommittee will explore ways to improve document delivery between Japan and the United States with its organizational counterpart in Japan;
2. A program to train US librarians in the use of NACSIS databases has been established with the support of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership;
3. Efforts are underway to publicize to US research libraries the new availability of NACSIS databases.
4. In the course of the discussion, the US side reported the desirability of establishing contacts with counterpart organizations to assist the Working Group.

The US side commended the Japan side's efforts in the Working Group and expressed the urgency of obtaining results in these areas as soon as possible. In particular, the US side expressed the wish to be able to access, via the Internet from overseas, information that is publicly and easily available in Japan. The US side asked the Japan side's assistance in facilitating such access.

## **CULCON and the 21st Century**

Referring to the April 16, 1996 joint declaration of Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton that the US-Japan relationship is based on, "shared values and interests," the delegates reiterated the need to promote cultural and educational exchange programs as a firm foundation for friendship and trust between the two countries.

Thus both sides agreed on the necessity of enhancing the effectiveness of CULCON in the following ways:

1. Giving higher profile to CULCON by effectively following up on recommendations;
2. Strengthening the functions of each national panel;
3. Strengthening the structure of CULCON;
4. Enhancing CULCON's visibility;
5. Giving attention to the global context of Japan-US cooperation;
6. Undertaking activities that will result in concrete advances and actual programs.

Furthermore the panels urged the chairs to meet between plenary sessions to discuss preparations for the next meeting and effective operations. Also the panels recognized the usefulness of holding plenary sessions in local cities in order to highlight grassroots exchange.

## Future Topics

Results of surveys on both the study of the United States in Japan and Japanese studies in the United States were presented to CULCON. Also, the need to encourage and expand Japanese language education in the United States was recognized. The panels applauded the work of the Japan Foundation in this area and encouraged further attention to it. The need to strengthen the study of the United States in Japanese universities and high schools was noted, and the US panel offered, as appropriate, to cooperate to that end.

CULCON concluded that it wished to continue focusing attention on undergraduate exchanges and information access. The panels agreed to continue to support the work of its Access to the Information Highway Working Group and the Undergraduate Educational Exchange Working Group. CULCON looks forward to further developments on study of the United States in Japan, Japanese studies in the United States and Japanese language education in the United States as high priorities.

The panels, noting that educational reform is a national priority in both countries and that they can learn from each other's experiences on this issue, agreed to ask the US Department of Education and Japan's Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture to organize joint research on educational reform.

With digital technology adopted as official policy of both the Japan and US governments, CULCON has the opportunity to explore how these technologies can be used in the fields of education, the arts and culture. Digital technology will allow relevant content to be distributed in various formats involving voice, video and data. CULCON has a unique opportunity to explore the best uses of these technologies and consider recommendations at CULCON XIX.

An informal task force will explore the possibilities for Japanese-US cooperation in international social service.

The Panels agreed that CULCON XIX will tentatively be held in Japan in Spring, 1999.