

**The 25th Joint Plenary Meeting of the United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)**

**Report**

**50 Years of CULCON and its Mission for the Future**

1. CULCON from inception until recent years

In 1961 Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda and US President John F. Kennedy made an agreement to establish the United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON). This agreement was made directly after the revision of the Japan-US Security Treaty in 1960 which gave rise to a movement in Japan opposing the suggested amendments of this treaty; a movement that made President Eisenhower cancel his visit to Japan. It was in the autumn of the same year that Edwin O. Reischauer's *The Broken Dialogue with Japan* was published. In establishing CULCON, the two leaders aimed to construct a framework that would support the Japan-US relationship, not only in terms of security cooperation, but more fundamentally and from a wider perspective.

Since then, the relationship has experienced eye-opening progress, not only in terms of security cooperation, but also in terms of the interpenetration of the two nations' economies and active exchanges in the areas of culture, education, science, and technology. Of course, it has not always been smooth sailing. The heightening trade friction that began with the Nixon Shock which lasted through the 1970s and into the mid-1990s is one example of trouble that has arisen between the two. However, even during such times of commerce friction, the governments of Japan and the United States spared no effort in ensuring that such problems did not affect their security relationship, and even managed to create a global partnership expanding beyond the Japan-US relationship in the narrow sense. Through the 1980s many Japanese studied abroad in the United States. There was a remarkable increase in the amount of person-to-person exchanges, and the interpenetration of the two cultures progressed to a more significant degree than could have ever been imagined at the time of CULCON's establishment.

Even during the tumultuous period at the start of the 1990s that witnessed the end of the Cold War, the Japan-US Alliance did not falter. In fact, the redefinition of the Alliance within the Japan-US Joint Declaration released in 1996 saw the relationship grow even closer. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Japan cooperated with the diplomatic and

security policies of the United States to an extent far beyond what was expected within previous frameworks. It was said at this time that the Japan-US Alliance was stronger than it had ever been since the end of World War II.

Even during such years of change in the Japan-US relationship, since its inception in 1961, CULCON has always served as an intellectual forum for the leaders of government, industry, and academia. CULCON has debated the themes of every era, proposing necessary measures for cultural and educational interexchange between Japan and the United States, and implementing related projects from a mid- to long-term perspective undisturbed by short-term political or economic situations.

Looking back on the issues taken up by CULCON over the years and through the 1970s, the Conference focused on studies of each other, and also areas such as language education, translation activities and publishing exchanges. In the 1980s, debate in the Conference began to focus on the news media and the communication gap between Japan and the United States, reflecting the economic friction felt by the two countries at the time. During the 1990s and into the 2000s, the Conference chose to take up previously untouched subjects such as the advancement of intellectual exchange, the expansion of exchanges between civil society, information access in the internet era, and the influence of digital culture. It can be said that the heightened recognition of the necessity of cultural and intellectual exchanges highlighted time and time again in the reports and proposals of CULCON led to the 1972 establishment of the Japan Foundation as an institution dedicated to undertake international cultural exchange, and to the further establishment within the Foundation of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership in 1991 in order to strengthen its partnership with the United States.

Of course, the outcomes of the intellectual dialogue at CULCON meetings have not been limited to reports for the Japanese and US governments. In fact, CULCON has spread its ideas through various reports and publications, and through symposiums and other public events. Themes of past CULCON symposiums include such topics as “Cultural Implication of Finite Resources” (1978), “Cultural Factors Influencing Japan-United States Economic Relations” (1982), “Initiatives for Improving Japan US Communication” (1991), “National Identity and Cultural Interchange in the 21st Century” (1999), “Role of Citizens in Dialogue among Civilizations” (2003), “Japan & US Soft Power: Addressing Global Challenges” (2009) and “Enhancing the US-Japan Partnership: Education and Cultural Ties in a Changing Global Context” (2011). It should be apparent from a brief look at these themes that CULCON has always been at

the forefront of dialogue on the most important subjects of each era. Each meeting has featured multisectoral participation by the intellectual leaders of Japan and the United States. While times may change, CULCON, and its proposals based on an all-encompassing view of the state of Japan-US exchanges, have a role and importance that are never diminished.

## 2. Redefining CULCON's Mission – Background and Results

All of this is not to say that there have not been fundamental challenges. The “lost 20-years” of stagnation which Japan entered into after the bursting of the economic bubble in 1990 and the decline in the financial situation since then have put constraints on Japan's budget for security issues. The amount of official development assistance (ODA) given by the Japanese government is also trending downward, with Japan no longer positioned as the world's top distributor of aid. The international contributions made by Japan to United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) have not been expanding much either.

Although the number of young people studying abroad in the United States from China and South Korea continues to grow rapidly, interest among Japanese youth in overseas exchanges seems to be shrinking. In particular, the number of exchange students sent to the United States has halved over the past 14 years. In her keynote speech at the annual meeting of the US-Japan Council in October 2011, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed concern over this matter, announcing that the government of the United States was making every effort to reverse this trend.

Even within the United States there is concern that political, academic and economic interest in Japan is waning. While this can be said to be due partly to the lagging Japanese economy and rise of newly emerging economies such as China, urgent efforts are nevertheless needed to revive interest in Japan.

The state of intellectual exchanges is of particular concern. It has been pointed out that the amount of research and number of lectures on Japan at universities and think tanks within the United States is falling. On the Japan side, the relative weakness of think tanks has been pointed out before, and the general feeling now is that these organizations are growing ever more feeble. Many are commenting on the lack of advice and absence of information input from the private sector in the policy making process. With better public-private partnerships and by strengthening the role of CULCON in this field, the situation should improve.

Under such circumstances, CULCON made the decision in 2008 to redefine the Japan-US relationship and thereby revitalize itself. Four years on from that decision, this report will discuss the extent to which the new CULCON has been successful at attaining its goals and what are issues that must still be dealt with.

### 3. Recent Achievements and Future Issues

Before discussing this topic, the great changes that have occurred in the real world since 2008 must be recognized.

When the Obama Administration was inaugurated in 2009 it immediately sent the message that it would prioritize its relationship with Japan. However, the Futenma Base relocation issue raised by the Hatoyama Administration in September of that same year brought the two countries in conflict, with discussions on this soon reaching a stalemate.

On the other hand, the support extended by the United States through Operation Tomodachi after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, had a great impact on the Japan-US relationship. The scale, speed, and capacity of this operation, as well as the sincerity and friendship expressed was far and above the expectations of the Japanese people. Never before had the Japanese felt so acutely the values of the Japan-US Alliance beyond the context of security issues. During the operation, the Japan-US relationship developed into a comprehensive bilateral relationship based on friendship surpassing the accumulated national interests, cultural ties and history. Moreover, in the autumn of 2011, public and private institutions in the United States and Japan cooperated to establish the TOMODACHI Initiative, to support education, culture and the economy in the disaster-affected region.

In the past, the West German government established the German Marshall Fund as a US institution in Washington DC show appreciation for the support received from the United States via the Marshall Plan. This Fund has worked to promote mutual understanding and intellectual dialogue between the United States and Europe, and the Japanese government may want to consider a similar institution to express their gratitude for the support received in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Japan is now also entering into discussion towards participation in negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). There can be no doubt that Japan's entry into this Partnership will reinforce the Japan-US relationship over the mid- to long-term. Having

previously supported the creation of the Japan-US Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), CULCON welcomes Japan's participation in the TPP. In addition to strengthening the Japan-US relationship in the context of the Asia-Pacific region, the formal participation of Japan will likely solidify multisectoral relationships in a variety of fields, from security and economics to culture.

In the meantime, the United States is confronted with the expansion of its government debt while facing the rise of China as a military power. Over the next 10 years, the U.S.A. is expected to cut more than 10% of its military budget, while President Obama has announced that the United States will shift the focus of its defense strategy to the Asia-Pacific region, prioritizing diplomatic relationships in the area. For Japan, this is a welcome change.

Twenty years after the end of the Cold War the world is changing from the era of "Pax Americana" to a multi-polar world. The United States, now more than ever before, has a greater need for the formation of a comprehensive regional order based on e.g. the TPP and for cooperation on security issues from its alliance partners in Asia, suggesting that there is a heightening need to further strengthen the Japan-US Alliance.

Reports by CULCON over the past few years reflect such circumstances as follows.

Progress is noted regarding activities related to Japan on the part of JET participants after they return to the United States, and with regard to the strengthening of a network among military personnel who had been stationed in Japan.

While so far a total of approximately 28,000 Americans have come to Japan under the JET Program, the relationships of trust that have been formed by US and Japanese citizens as a result of this program is far above this number. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the *Satogaeri(Return Home)* Project in which 20 former JET participants, who had worked in the municipal governments of the disaster-affected region travelled back to the areas to broadcast the state of reconstruction through the media, websites, Twitter feeds, Facebook, and other outlets.

In addition to the above, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership began supporting activities to promote a network of Japanese and American social entrepreneurs, and continues its support of the National Association of Japan America

Societies.

In terms of exchange within the fields of the performing and fine arts, through discussions of CULCON, a meeting of specialists was held to encourage Japan-US artistic exchanges. This “Arts Dialogue” saw a lively exchange of opinions and resulted in many concrete proposals. Furthermore, from fiscal 2009, the Japan Foundation started the Japan-US Art Curator Exchange Program, which for three years invited to Japan a total of 28 American curators specializing in modern and contemporary art, crafts, *ukiyo-e* and other art forms. The Japan Foundation also extended invitations to US theatrical arts presenters to theatrical arts meetings in Japan.

The Japan-US cooperation has also further deepened in the field of “ Education for Sustainable Development” . The aim here is to promote and deepen through education the understanding of values and actions which are required for the sustainable development of the environment, economy, and society. Based on the 2008 CULCON Report, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) began a program for the exchange of educators between Japan and the United States in this field, and that program continues to this day.

In relation to the strengthening of think tanks, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has commissioned research projects not only to make policy proposals, but also to foster think tanks. The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership started a program in FY2009 to encourage exchanges with influential US think tanks, and has also begun a program to foster specialists to coordinate the next-generation of Japan-US exchanges. Furthermore, in 2007, five Japanese universities (Kyoto University, Keio University, University of Tokyo, Ritsumeikan University, and Waseda University) began operating the US-Japan Research Institute in Washington DC.

In recent years, Japan has felt an extreme sense of urgency in the declining trend in the number of exchange students. Japan’s MEXT is encouraging Japanese students to study abroad and is budgeting for policies to increase the number of exchange students who visit Japan from overseas. With the goal of inciting interest in Japan among US university students, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Studies has started a program to support research visits to Japan by undergraduate students. Movement has even been seen on the part of Japanese private sector groups to create study abroad schemes that allow two years of research overseas in order to foster researchers, bureaucrats and policy research specialists.

In August 2011 a workshop targeting Japanese high school students in Tokyo, was organized by Japanese and other students at Harvard. This workshop highlighted the value of studying at a US university through activities such as case studies and presentations by guest speakers from academia and business. Beyond institutional support related to academic exchanges, it is important to increase opportunities introducing the meaning and objectives of studying abroad and the value of experiencing a foreign culture.

Spurred on by a recent announcement from the University of Tokyo, the major universities of Japan have begun discussion on shifting their admissions period to the autumn. This would create a “gap year” for students, or a block of time between graduation and the next stage of education or employment, which they could effectively use as an opportunity to broaden their horizons. It is hoped that not only academia or with universities, but the entire Japanese society will work to accommodate this by encouraging companies to shift recruitment periods and prioritize study abroad experiences.

However, other major problems remain.

As noted previously, although many programs have started in Japan with the goal of strengthening think tanks, these programs are still insufficient for the creation of a foundation for think tanks that can contribute to policy making. A fundamental new policy is called for. One might even say that the lack of a strong foundation for think tanks in Japan is behind the failure of discussions and debates on policies among the ruling and opposition parties to produce positive outcomes.

Concerning the plan to increase exchange students, mutual academic exchanges at the high school, college and graduate school level should be strongly promoted. The Japanese and US governments should provide more proactive support and ease regulations concerning such exchanges. In particular, there is an urgent need today for Japan to foster students that can play an active role at a global level. It is crucial to recognize the value of study abroad and have society proactively value the activities of such students after they return to Japan. It goes without saying that the cooperation of private and financial sectors is indispensable for such a change.

As has been already noted, TOMODACHI Initiative projects are gaining steam based on

agreements in both the public and private sectors of Japan and the United States. In addition, as a show of gratitude for the support received from each country following the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to start the KIZUNA Project, a program aimed at promoting international exchange and mutual understanding among the younger generations. These activities should be promoted proactively with the understanding that such initiatives are valuable opportunities for the fostering of human resources that can take part in the future of Japan-US exchange as well as Japan's international exchanges and global dialogues.

#### 4. Conclusion: Strengthening and Developing an in-depth Japan-US Relationship – Future Goals for Japan and the United States and the New Mission of CULCON

The Japan-US relationship differs from the “natural alliance” of the UK-US relationship in that Japan and the United States possess different races, ethnicities and religions. Moreover, it was not so long ago that the two countries came up against each other in the great war. Regardless, the two rapidly reconciled, and through civil and government efforts they basically overcame that past, successfully stabilizing relations based on common national interests and shared values and developing a mature alliance and friendly relationship. It has to be said that such a relationship between two countries is quite rare in world history.

Looking at the Japan-US relationship from past to present and with an eye to the future, CULCON has the following thoughts on the future of its mission.

- The two countries of Japan and the United States are firmly tied together by important shared values such as democracy and market economics. The development of Operation Tomodachi after the Great East Japan Earthquake further cemented feelings of friendship. On the other hand, international conditions are still unsettled, and, especially in changing times such as these, there is a special need to further strengthen the relationship of mutual trust (the KIZUNA) between Japan and the United States.
- In continuing to hold discussion and make proposals related to further enhancement of cultural, educational and intellectual exchanges between Japan and the United States, CULCON should aim to realize a Japan-US relationship of a more in-depth and robust nature. The financial basis for the Japan Foundation Center for Global Studies should be strengthened as a requirement toward this purpose.
- CULCON believes that the bolstering of cultural, educational and intellectual



exchanges between Japan and the United States will contribute to the creation of more a robust and lasting infrastructure that can support the Japan-US relationship from the bottom-up. At the core of such activity are efforts to foster human resources that will in the future be able to address priority issues of not just the Japan-US relationship but the entire global community.

- CULCON is confident that the creation of human resources that can contribute to the world as a whole will be of extreme value for both Japan and the United States.
- Based on the above-mentioned issues, CULCON proposes at this stage as its most important policy that the governments of Japan and the United States, as well as relevant parties in the private sector, undertake proactive investments for the future by supporting education in a wide sense. Specific actions for this will be proposed in following section.

**General Policy Recommendations**

## 1. Education exchange

## (1) Education exchange/cooperation

## ① Higher education/intercollegiate exchange

With the world progressing towards globalization and with the arrival of a truly knowledge-based society, it has become a common global issue to train outstanding people who can have power of innovation and can play active roles in various areas of society. Both Japan and the United States have focused their attention especially on and devoted their efforts to promote exchange programs between higher educational institutions and universities.

Although the largest number of Japanese students still chooses the United States for studying overseas, this number has declined more than 50% in 2010 from 10 years earlier. U.S. students who came to Japan totaled 6,166, staying at dangerously low levels.

CULCON requests that the Japanese and U.S. governments drastically increase the financial support they have been providing to date for the expansion of Japan-US student exchange programs.

CULCON also welcomes the results of the Japan-US Higher Education Panel held on April 9. In order to steadily strengthen the cooperative relations between colleges and universities in Japan and the United States, it is essential to continue exchanges between them. It is highly significant in this sense that discussions have started towards expanding the platform for Japan-U.S university student exchanges, based on measures that include an expansion of Japan-U.S. student exchange agreements, mutual tuition exemptions and joint education program such as double-degree systems. It has been reported that further meetings to discuss the above issues have already been planned, and we hope that those involved will support and encourage actions.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (i) Increase government and private-sector scholarships for the promotion of student exchange programs between Japan and the United States
- (ii) Support the establishment of joint educational programs by universities in Japan and the United States and promote Japan-U.S. cooperation in personnel training and student exchanges
- (iii) Encourage exchanges for the creation of a platform between universities in Japan and the United States based on current joint educational programs.

② Promotion of high school student exchange programs etc

It is extremely important for both Japan and the United States to continuously promote, beginning at secondary education levels, the development of human resources with strong language and communication skills and experiences of foreign cultures who can face challenges and play active roles on the global stage. This will lead to the creation of future generations who can lead Japan and the United States and eventually enhance the international competitiveness of the two countries.

Overseas studies, which expose high school students to other cultures and enable them to absorb such stimulants while still young, have a far-reaching significance in the formation of their careers and will also become an effective means of promoting bilateral exchanges to further strengthen the relations between Japan and the United States.

In 1988, the number of Japanese high school students studying in other countries increased rapidly due to the introduction of a system that allowed them to transfer credits they earn overseas to their schools in Japan. This number has been declining in recent years, however. Especially, the number of students studying in the United States plunged, to a little more than a third (1,150) in 2008 from 20 years earlier (1988). Meanwhile, 209 American students were studying in Japan in 2008. It is hoped that this number will also increase.

From these perspectives, CULCON welcomes the Japanese government's decision to drastically raise expenditures in its fiscal 2012 draft budget for the support of high school students to study overseas and hopes that both governments will take steps to provide further aid.

In addition, cooperation among local governments, companies, private organizations and citizen society is necessary to improve the environment for the promotion of overseas studies by high school students. We request that authorities concerned conduct re-evaluations in order to enable AFS, which has achieved outstanding results, as well as programs implemented by other organizations, to function comprehensively, organically and effectively. We would also like the authorities to promote and spread illuminating examples of high school exchange.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (i) Support students participating in programs sponsored by local public organizations and private companies that organize overseas studies and exchanges for high school students, or support individual students who want to study overseas on their own.
- (ii) Support prefectural governments that provide consultations designed to create and increase opportunities for high school students to gain international perspectives,

send appropriate instructors to schools and assign advisors on overseas studies.

- (iii) Support participants in programs sponsored by private organizations to invite students from overseas.

③ Japan-US educational cooperation to respond to global issues

CULCON, recognizing the need for young next-generation leaders in Japan and the United States to have international perspectives in order to address environmental, energy, food and other global issues and exercise their joint leadership, recommended in a report at the 23<sup>rd</sup> joint conference held in 2008 that improvements be made in the exchange of teachers and students focusing on “Education for Sustainable Development.” In response, the Japanese and US governments launched a “Japan-US teachers exchange program for education for sustainable development” in 2009.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government is participating in a joint project on the “Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)” program proposed by the United States.

CULCON urges the Japanese and U.S. governments to continue to promote education that will lead to specific actions necessary for building a sustainable society, including the protection of the environment.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (i) Steady continuation of the “ESD Japan-US Teachers Exchange Program” by both governments
- (ii) Promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation as well as environmental education in Japan and the United States through continuous participation in “GLOBE.”

(2) Japanese language education in the United States

It is important for people in Japan and the United States to deepen their understanding of each other’s culture and society in order to build a stable base for Japan-US exchanges into the future and to maintain and develop the bilateral alliance.

The promotion of the Japanese language is important to turn a superficial understanding of Japan into a deep understanding of Japan. As a result, in the United States those involved in Japanese language education as well as scholars interested in Japan form a valuable human asset base in the bilateral diplomatic relationship. Because of the US budget deficits and consequent reductions in educational spending, the Japanese language education in the U.S.A. today faces an increasingly difficult environment at all school levels – elementary, secondary and higher – and the Japanese

government and private organizations need to join forces to promote the use of Japanese in the United States even more vigorously than in the past.

It is CULCON's strong hope that the US federal and state governments, in light of the importance of Japanese and foreign language education, provide stable budgets for organizations that are providing Japanese language education.

CULCON also hopes that the Japanese government will maintain and expand its support for the promotion of Japanese language education in the United States, including aid for seminars by the Japan Foundation and other organizations as well as for teachers' associations to encourage continuous improvements in the quality of Japanese language instructors.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (i) Through events that introduce Japanese culture for example, students, parents and school officials should be given the opportunity to learn more about the merits and benefits of choosing Japanese from among many foreign languages.
- (ii) In line with the diplomatic policy of "strengthening Japan-US exchanges for deepening the Japan-US alliance" young Japanese language instructors should be dispatched to support Japanese language education in primary, secondary and institutions of higher learning in the United States and to encourage exchanges between Japanese and American youths.
- (iii) In order to strengthen the foundation of Japanese language education and improve its efficiency, activities by teachers' associations and educational organizations to promote Japanese language education should be supported as well as projects to address issues such as the continuity and consistency of Japanese language education at primary-secondary and higher education levels and for efforts to ensure consistency in educational contents given in different classes and taught by different teachers.

### (3) English language education in Japan

As stated earlier, it is important for both Japan and the United States to promote education to train young people from the primary and secondary educational levels so that they will acquire global perspectives. In Japan, the development of English language and communication skills is desirable in primary, junior and senior high schools as part of efforts to correct the "inward-looking tendency" among youths and to expand the reservoir of people with global perspectives. It is important, at the same time,

to improve the quality and capability of teachers and others involved in English language education.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (i) Steady implementation of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET Program) for the improvement of English language and communication skills and support for projects for upgrading English language education in primary, junior and senior high schools using sister-city and sister-school programs, ITC and other means.
- (ii) Support coordination with universities and private organizations in order to provide primary, junior and senior high school students with more opportunities to experience different cultures and meet with young people in other countries.
- (iii) Support for projects to improve the quality of assistant language teachers (ALT).
- (iv) Dispatch of young English language teachers to the United States to study English teaching methods and implement programs designed to assist teachers to deepen their understanding of the United States through exchange projects and home stays and thus improve their leadership capability and communication skills in English.

## 2. Intellectual Exchange

Intellectual exchange forms the base for medium- and long-term support of exchange programs between Japan and the United States and CULCON recognizes the importance of maintaining and strengthening intellectual exchange.

There has been no fundamental change in CULCON's recognition of the importance of intellectual exchange for deepening and developing the Japan-U.S. alliance as stated in its report of 2008. On the other hand, there have been many developments between 2008 and the present that have influenced the bilateral relations. They include the global financial crisis that followed the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Arab Spring, the European economic crisis, the prolonged US economic stagnation, the rise of China and other changes in Asia and the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck eastern Japan in 2011,

In order to respond to these changes successfully, it is necessary to diversify and expand the framework for intellectual exchange, addressing them not only with the traditional bilateral Japan-US approach but also from regional, issue-specific and other perspectives as well as from the standpoint of diversifying participating actors.

Since the second half of the 1990s, policy dialogs and research projects on Japan have decreased or stalled, raising concerns among policymakers in the two countries.

Financial conditions of private-sector organizations that have helped implement exchange projects between Japanese and US policymakers as well as those of foundations that have supported them financially have deteriorated as a result of a decline in government support and budgetary cuts stemming from rearrangements in government spending priorities. Intellectual exchange programs continue to face a challenging environment.

The project budget of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, which has been functioning as a core Japanese organization to support bilateral intellectual exchange programs, has shrunk to a third of what it was at the time the center was founded. The annual budget of the Japan Foundation in 2009 was about 1/6 of that of the British Council and less than 1/2 of the Goethe Institute. In terms of per-capita spending, the Japan Foundation's budget is 1/13 of the British Council and 1/4 of the Goethe Institute. It is urgently necessary, therefore, to expand the foundation's financial base in light of the importance of intellectual exchange.

Leaders in Japan and the United States also realize the necessity to deepen the bilateral relations, and there are human resources available for that purpose. But opportunities for policy dialogs have been limited because of weak organizational and financial bases.

CULCON strongly calls for the understanding and support of both governments for efforts to strengthen the human resource and financial bases for intellectual exchange in order to break down such conditions and maintain and develop Japan-US intellectual exchange programs over the long term.

For this purpose, the following specific measures are recommended.

(1) Training next-generation leaders for intellectual exchange:

- (i) Stress the importance of the Japan-US relations in the United States and the international community and train people interested in Japan who are capable of influencing US public opinion.
- (ii) Train young Japanese public intellectuals who can communicate to the rest of the world what the Japanese people are thinking.
- (iii) Expand support for policy research institutes in Japan whose scope and financial base are smaller than those in the United States.
- (iv) Expand exchanges between members of Japanese parliament and US Congress as well as their staffs that have been on a downward trend.

(2) Expansion of the scope of Japan-US intellectual exchange

- (i) Expand the scope of intellectual exchange beyond the Japan-US bilateral

relations into the Asian and Middle Eastern regions and further into Japan-US cooperation on issues of global importance.

- (ii) Search for new issues for intellectual exchange that are likely to pose globally important challenges in the future in fields where the national interests and capabilities of Japan and the United States complement each other, such as disaster prevention, energy problems, political stagnation and issues on democracy, and promote the establishment of research communities specific to each theme or issue.
- (iii) Promote the diversification of participants in order to implement (i) and (ii) above, for instance, by creating a framework for multi-national dialog together with third countries, especially with rapidly growing Asian nations, and by including, depending on topics to be studied, U.S. leaders and specialists in various fields who may not necessarily be specialists in Japan or Japan-US relations.

(3) Giving back the results of intellectual exchange to Japanese and US citizens:

We should promote activities that are designed to return to the general public in Japan and the United States the results of intellectual exchange programs that often remain within the limited policy and academic communities. Specifically, we should encourage the results of intellectual exchange programs to be released through the Internet and hold seminars to announce the results of joint research projects.

### 3. Arts and cultural exchange

CULCON recognizes the importance of providing citizens of Japan and the United States with opportunities to come in contact with the outstanding works and achievements in formative and performing arts and of promoting mutual understanding between the two countries in a wide range of areas, beyond the fields of politics and economy, and requests that necessary measures be taken.

(1) Training next-generation leaders

CULCON welcomes the decision to reopen the JAWS program (the international graduate school conference on the history of Japanese arts) and supports efforts to strengthen exchanges between universities and graduate schools in Japan and the United States in the fields of arts and culture.

(2) Curator exchange

There should be support for the exchange of working-level staffs and curators who



plan and organize projects in the fields of arts and culture, for the sharing of information on both sides and for the establishment of networks and joint projects. For example, it may be possible to create an exchange program between Japan and the United States similar to the present Japan-Australia curatorial exchange program carried out with the support of the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, or expand the Japan-US curatorial exchange program the Japan Foundation has been continuously supporting.

(3) Improving the administrative systems necessary to hold art exhibitions

The administrative work involved in holding art exhibitions should be facilitated, for example applying the government insurance system for outstanding art objects from various countries for possible damage, in view of some recent instances including one in which the shipment of art objects to Japan was suspended at the time of the March disaster last year.

(4) Mutual introduction of performing arts

Subsidies should be provided for arts and cultural organizations in North America that promote opportunities for the introduction of outstanding Japanese performing arts for non-profit purposes under the Performing Arts Japan North America Program which the Japan Foundation has been organizing. Performing arts events should be promoted not only in major cities but also in small towns in the United States and deeper understanding of Japan in wider areas of the United States should be cultivated.

Quality programs and projects should also be promoted by inviting presenters and others from the United States when international performing arts meetings are held in Japan.

#### 4. Grass-roots exchange

A certain degree of success has been achieved in the exchanges and mutual understanding between the citizens of Japan and the United States due to joint programs and basically smooth bilateral relations over the past decades.

It is true, on the other hand, that interest in Japan and the recognition of the importance of the Japan-US relations until recently have been slowly waning in the United States among both the general public and intellectuals. This is due to the relative decline in Japan's economic status in the international community in recent years, the rise of China and other Asian countries and the reduction in international exchange programs as a result of financial difficulties in local communities in Japan.

In the midst of these developments, however, the earthquake and the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant accident that struck on March 11 last year completely changed interest in Japan not only in the United States but also in the international community in general.

CULCON, under these conditions, strongly request that the Japanese and U.S. governments provide active support for the expansion and revitalization of the already existing private-sector exchange channels and for the expansion of exchange opportunities between citizens as well as young next-generation leaders of the two countries in new fields.

For this purposes, the following specific measures are recommended.

- (1) Support for the JET program
  - (i) Support various activities including Japanese language classes and career advancement programs conducted by JETAA (the JET alumni association) and promote the dissemination of information on Japanese culture and other developments through the Internet by JETAA members on the basis of their experiences in Japan and as precious Japanese experts in the United States.
  - (ii) Regarding the March 11<sup>th</sup> disaster, especially, former JET program participants have been sending information on reconstruction efforts in the disaster areas through their websites, Twitter feeds and Facebook as well as through the mass media in their countries under the “Return Home Project” sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (inviting for about one week 20 former JET participants who have the experience of working with local governments). CULCON requests that such activities be continued and actively expanded.
- (2) Expansion of exchange opportunities for next-generation leaders that will help them to gain social experiences and contribute to society in the future
  - (i) Create opportunities for young next-generation leaders to experience and understand each other’s culture and society at as early a stage as possible. Specifically, expand mutual visit and exchange programs among high school students, promote short- and long-term overseas studies by university students and send Japanese language education assistants to the United States.
  - (ii) CULCON welcomes the implementation of large-scale exchange programs at senior high school and university levels. Among them are “the Kizuna (Bond) project” set in motion by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a gesture of appreciation for the support extended by other countries at the time of last year’s disaster and (Tomodachi (Friends) Initiative” set up by the U.S. State Department together with the U.S. Japan Council. It also requests that this program, limited to one year in duration at present, be extended into the following year after necessary and appropriate reviews.

(3) Facilitating new types of exchange among civil society

- (i) As is demonstrated by the concept “New Public,” civil society organizations and social entrepreneurs have been attracting attention both in Japan and in the United States as actors for dealing with issues and problems that are difficult for existing governments and social systems to address. Their importance is expected to increase in the future, also in connection with efforts for reconstruction after the disaster, and CULCON supports the establishment of schemes that enable communities to help each other resolve particular issues.
- (ii) “Teach for America,” a program devised to send college graduates as teachers for certain periods of time to areas with limited educational opportunities, has succeeded not only as a way to support education but also as a program that trains future leaders and helps young people gain social experience. Japan may not be able to operate exactly the same way, but it is worth considering in the future the possibility of education as part of a community activity that is different, as shown in this case in the United States, from leaning within the regular educational system. In this sense, CULCON welcomes the start of “Teach Japan” by a Japanese non-profit organization on an experimental basis and hopes that it will develop into an alternative educational system that supports not only education in regular schools but also help society as a whole to nurture the growth of young people. CULCON calls for support for exchange programs in this field between citizens in Japan and the United States.