

**Report of the NCC Chair Activities  
NCC Business Trip to Japan  
June 21 – June 27, 2008**

**Overview**

This trip gave the Chair and Executive Director the opportunity to: (1) Garner administrative support for the Image Use Protocol (IUP) Task Force's Japanese Images Conference; (2) exchange information related to the NCC activities with Japanese partner institutions, and (3) identify and cultivate potential funding sources. I will leave detailed reports to the IUP Task Force members, Librarians Professional Development Committee (LPDC), and Japan Art Catalog Committee (JAC). This report focuses on the meetings with NDL, the Japan Foundation and other Japanese foundations.

**“Japanese Images” pre-conference meeting, June 22**

**“Japanese Images” Conference, June 23**

**Japan Studies Librarians Training Working Group Meeting at NDL, June 24**

**National Diet Library, June 24**

Dr. Makoto Nagao, Director (greeting & photo op only)

Mr. Motonobu Yoshinaga, Deputy Librarian

With Mr. Kenji Uetsuki, Managing Director & Ms. Mika Lawler

A separate meeting with Ms. Miho Sekine

We updated NCC activities and thanked NDL for its continuing support to Mr. Yoshinaga, new Deputy Librarian. The following points were also discussed:

- **Overseas Japanese studies librarians training:** NDL continues to investigate a new training program in partnership with the International House of Japan (see the LPDC report on the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.)
- **Exchanging an MOU:** Bazzell officially asked Mr. Ikuhara in November 2007 to formalize cooperative efforts between NDL and NCC. NDL has never exchanged MOUs with other institutions; however, no rules prohibit NDL from doing so. NDL will continue to review NCC's request. For your information, the MOU with NII was renewed and thus the automatic renewal is effective June 2008. (postscript: No response from NDL yet to Bazzell's follow-up in July.) Although MOUs have never been exchanged, Mr. Yoshinaga acknowledged Mr. Ikuhara's support letter for NCC's application for the Japan Foundation grant last year and restated NDL's support for NCC's efforts and for collaborations with NCC.
- **NDL's leadership role to advocate its services and presence in overseas communities:** Mr. Yoshinaga mentioned that Dr. Nagao's active role as an advocate.
- **NCC's 3D conference in 2010:** We informed them about the 3D conference and indicated that we may request a speaker from NDL for the conference. Mr. Yoshinaga mentioned that he would be retired by then but promised to leave this matter to be followed up by his successor.

**National Art Center, Tokyo June 24**

Mr. Hideki Hayashida, Director  
 Mr. Osamu Fukunaga, Chief Curator  
 Mr. Takeshi Mizutani  
 Ms. Mariko Shiratori, Research Assistant  
 With Reiko Yoshimura & Sachie Noguchi

Please see the JAC reports from Reiko Yoshimura, Sachie Noguchi, and Mariko Shiratori. One brief note is that NACT has conference rooms available if an event is co-sponsored by NACT.

**Japan Foundation, June 25**

Japanese Studies and intellectual Exchange Department  
 Mr. Tadashi Ogawa, Managing Director,  
 Ms. Masako Yamamoto, Director, General Coordination and the Americas Division,  
 Mr. Hidekazu Takeda, Assistant Director

We thanked JF for funding support and briefed the IUP conference. Ms. Yamamoto attended the IUP's afternoon session and mentioned that she was glad to see its success. She was also looking forward to seeing the outcomes. She also introduced us to a new managing director, Mr. Ogawa, who succeeded Mr. Chaya as of April 2008. This meeting took place at the JF's new office in Yotsuya. The official opening was held on July 15, where Vicky was invited to attend. The JF Library is now located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, however, the Library services would be reduced and its function would be changed in many ways. Due to the JF's relocation, the IUP conference was not held at JF as we originally planned. In the future, there are some conference rooms available for such occasions (holds 80+ or 20+) and if an event is co-sponsored by JF, room charges would be waived. There are two reasonable hotels nearby and JF could provide group rates. The following points were discussed in regards to NCC's future funding:

- Ms. Yamamoto mentioned that a new initiative such as the Faculty Forum at Princeton in January 2009 proposed in NCC's application was very positive. Such innovative projects would be positively reviewed for the future as well.
- Although with this year's grant NCC received \$60,000 for the consecutive two FYs (April 08-March 09 & April 09-March 10), JF's policy of not funding operational/administrative expenses still stands. During the two FYs, NCC needs to work on its own financial sustainability.
- NCC cannot apply for JF ISP grant in 2009 with the same projects described in the December 2007 application, however, if NCC's proposed projects are new, NCC can apply during the next competition.
- One source of financial support may be to discuss with the "Tanaka Ten" institutions whether they could assist NCC activities.
- Tanaka 10 endowments have been managed and administered independently by individual institutions. Therefore, NCC needs to approach each institution to find out if a support arrangement is possible. Some institutions, for example, pay the \$15,000 per year membership due to the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC).

- NCC can obtain the list of Tanaka 10 and their contacts from the JF NY office (postscript: the list was sent to NCC in July.)
- Bazzell would obtain the original letter describing the intention of Tanaka 10 fund (postscript: The original letter is attached. In 1990, "...used in the United States" was amended by JF as "...in the United States and Japan.")
- Vickey agreed to draft a letter while she was in Japan and get some input from Ms. Yamamoto.

For your information, after my return to Honolulu, I discussed the Tanaka 10 plan with the UH Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) Director. Although a decision is made by the endowment committee, they see it within the scope of the endowment. However, such help should have time limit, such as in five years rather than open-ended support, according to the CJS director.

#### Individual foundation visits

Vickey and I together introduced ourselves and discussed NCC activities and possibilities of support from the following funding institutions. A summary is as follows:

#### **Tokyo Club, June 25**

Mr. Mitsuo Kobayashi, General Manager

<http://www.tokyoclub.or.jp/activity.html>

Members-only private organization

- Mainly supports events and projects such as music from Japan, Noh performance, US-Japan student exchange, inviting speakers from and to the US.
- In the past, it supported the International House of Japan's library automation and library publications.
- Must be recommended by a Tokyo Club member.
- Also possible if a project is recommended by the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- Provides financial assistance only.
- It does not co-sponsor with other organizations.
- Needs a contact person in Japan who can communicate with the Club.
- Mr. Kobayashi can provide with advice and input in advance if NCC drafts a proposal.

#### **Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation, June 26**

Mr. Eiichi Suda, Executive Director

Mr. Masaaki Sasaki, General Manager

<http://www.bk.mufg.jp/minasama/kakawari/zaidan/kokusai/jigyuu.html>

When two banks were merged, their foundations were merged into the present foundation. However, previous foundations' activities and administration are maintained by officers employed by predecessor foundations for time being.

- Provides financial assistance to forums, lectures, etc.
- Can co-sponsor with other organizations. Can co-sponsor with governmental organizations such as the Japan Foundation.

- Mainly supports projects or organizations which promote international relations among people who have fewer opportunities, such as developing countries.
- However, if a proposal describes needs and conditions well, North American proposals will not be excluded. Describe needs such as lack of Japanese studies institutions in the South, or less financial opportunities from Japan compared with other emerging Asian nations' supports, etc.
- The administration is aware of the current situation in regards to promoting Japanese culture in North America.
- Supports multi-purposes such as a combination of research, publications, conferences, and events in the same project.
- The next grant opportunity will be in 2009. If NCC drafts a proposal, they are willing to provide with advice and input before the submission.
- Mr. Sasaki will retire this summer but this meeting discussion would be passed on to his successor.

### **Nippon Foundation**

Mr. David Karashima, Senior Project Coordinator, International Network Team,  
International Program Department  
Ms. Etsuko Morimura

Vickey had a separate meeting with Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, Head of the International Program (see also her report). In recent years, the Nippon Foundation changed its focus. They do not fund small projects less than \$1 million. We were consulted how they should proceed with the new 100 book distribution project, which is managed by Ms. Morimura (this project was discussed at the NCC Council last time.) We acknowledged that both organizations would maintain the communication channel and exchange information.