

**Report of the NCC Chair Activities
NCC Business Meetings in Japan
November 24 – 25, 2008**

While I was on UH business trip to Japan, I was able to set up a meeting with Japan Foundation officials via the JF New York Office. I learned that the JF personnel rotation effective November 1 made Mr. Rikimaru Takahashi the successor to Ms. Masako Yamamoto, who began her new position at the Japanese Language Education Department. Also I requested information on the first review of the Institutional Program Support (IPS) conducted by the JF American Advisory Committee (AAC) in mid November.

November 25, Japan Foundation

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department

Mr. Tadashi Ogawa, Managing Director,

Mr. Rikimaru Takahashi, Director, General Coordination and the Americas Division,

Mr. Hidekazu Takeda, Assistant Director

Since Mr. Takahashi was new to the position, he was briefed on NCC's mission and activities. Mr. Ogawa and Mr. Takahashi informed me that they just received the AAC review report. Therefore, the details of the review would be delivered to me later (received on December 9 via email) The following points were discussed:

- The JF is facing a serious transitional situation due to the changes implemented in the Japanese government and the current economic environment. Therefore, the JF activities continue to be adjusted.
- The financial situation is much more severe than expected, which enormously impacts the JF grant activities.
- While the NCC activities are recognized and appreciated by AAC members and the JF, the NCC needs to be prepared to adjust to the new environment as well.
- Since Mr. Takahashi has to justify the JF activities to Japanese political and government stakeholders, information with hard statistics, clear outcomes and measurements from the NCC are more effective. (Example: IUP articles in various publications.) I asked the Executive Director to follow up and keep close contact with Mr. Takahashi on regular basis.
- Bazzell requested that the JF keeps the NCC well informed if there are planned meetings and conferences related to Japanese studies. This request was prompted by NCC learning by chance that Japanese studies directors in North Pacific and Hawaii regions would meet at the University of British Columbia in November. Luckily, the directors at UH and UW were asked to attend the conference. The Chair and Chair-Elect managed to find out the details in advance of the conference and arranged for library and information issues to be included in the agenda. Mr. Takahashi agreed. For example, the JF is planning to convene a meeting among Japanese studies stakeholders in Asia in 2009. The JF will keep the NCC in the loop regarding these types of meetings.

- The JF has confirmed Veronica Taylor's report at Honolulu that from the next meeting (Princeton), there will be no representative from AAC at the NCC Council meetings. I learned that the JF will no longer send an observer to the NCC Council meetings. The JFNY confirmed this later: *"The IPS subcommittee agrees that there is an inconsistency in having a representative from JF attending the business meetings of NCC in either a voting or an advisory capacity, as they are a grant recipient. The main reason for this is that the AAC does not extend the same service to other grant applicants or recipients. The subcommittee recommends that an AAC member should not attend the NCC board meetings."*
- However, usually the JF sends an observer to a program funded by the JF. This means that there may be an observer from the JFNY at the NCC programs such as the Faculty Forum at Princeton (postscript: This has been confirmed. Mr. Tsujimoto and Mr. Tompkins will be attending the Faculty Forum as observers.)
- In the AAC report, there are suggestions for organizations conducting ongoing activities:
 - AAC will continue to hold discussions with organizations.
 - AAC will make recommendations to improve activities of organizations and encourage them to pursue outside funding sources.
 - AAC will get confirmation whether organizations intend to seek JF funding for new program proposals.

Ms. Masako Yamamoto

I had a chance to thank Ms. Yamamoto for her advice and support while she was in the position. She sent her best regards to the NCC Council members. She believes that the NCC activities are effective and the NCC will continue to develop good programs. She would like to continue to pay close attention to the NCC development even if she rotated off from the position.

Ms. Junko Kurita, JF Tokyo Headquarters Library

The JF Library acquired new space and adopted new missions. Now located on the ground floor, it provides much easier access for walk-in visitors. However, the reference desk was merged with a JF reception counter staffed by contractors, which has reduced the Library's reference services. The space design seems to focus more on visual appearance rather than library service activities. The layout especially reduces browsing ability. The volume of materials has been significantly reduced. Public presentations and conference areas are included on the 2nd floor.

November 24

Mr. Akio Yasue, NCC

Ms. Izumi Koide, NCC IUP

Ms. Rie Hayashi, International House of Japan Library

Thanks to the kind arrangement by Akio and Izumi, we discussed the issues related to the IUP timelines and planning, NCC Open Meeting, and AAS IUP Workshop in Chicago.

Ms. Hayashi was planning to meet the JF officials with the NDL representatives the following day regarding the Post JSIS Seminar grant application. I thanked Ms. Hayashi for the I-House assistance to the IUP conference in June. Later I learned that I-House's official decision was to not conduct the seminar during this grant cycle. I requested Ms. Hayashi's written report on this issue for discussion at the Princeton Council meeting.