

The Japan Foundation

Summary of the American Advisory Committee Meeting held at the University Club of Chicago, November 8 and 9, 2008

Sunday, November 9

Report on Fellowship Programs

The Doctoral Fellowship subcommittee had a total of 23 applications to review. The DF subcommittee selected 15 principal awardees and 6 alternate awardees. The Research Fellowship subcommittee had a total of 28 applications to review: 18 for the Research Fellowship and 10 for the Short-term Research Fellowship. For the Research Fellowships, the RF subcommittee selected 6 principal awardees and 6 alternates. For the short-term Research Fellowship, the RF subcommittee selected 4 principal awardees and 4 alternates.

The number of applications for both the Doctoral and Research Fellowships declined this year and it is believed that the smaller number of applications was due to the new, earlier September 1 deadline.

The new deadline will once again return to November. JF will also begin to adopt online, electronic applications as the standard format for applications in the next round of screening.

Report on the Institutional Project Support (IPS) Program

The IPS subcommittee recommends that JF create a standardized interim report for current grantees, which includes cover letter, progress report, and budget report. The subcommittee then discusses the status of the long-term IPS grantees, IUC, NCC, and MJS, and reaffirms that a continued dialogue with them regarding our future relationship is necessary. For the next round of screening, the Japan Foundation hopes to work with these grantees in mentoring and reshaping their proposals.

The following are the subcommittee's suggestions for the next round of screening:

- Call for Proposals: First, solicit expressions of interest. Then, upon preliminary screening, invite full proposals from short-listed applicants.
- Priority should be given to projects that contribute significantly to infrastructure building for the field; projects framed as partnerships or consortia in a variety of forms.
- Tanaka 10 institutions: Encourage the Tanaka 10 be more involved in outreach, consortium building, and involving institutional partners in Japan, by signaling this in the revised IPS priority statement.

*Tentative schedule for the next round of IPS screening, 2009-2010**

March 2009	Submission of applications begins (advertisements will be distributed at the AAS conference)
Mid-July 2009	Deadline for submission
Mid-August 2009	Preliminary screening of applications, announcement of results, and notification to applicants
December 1, 2009	Deadline for submission of full applications
January, 2010	AAC Meeting

*Further details on this schedule will be decided by the AAS conference in March, and will be broadly distributed