

OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 17

THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

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Problems Facing Philanthropy in Japan

The growing interest in philanthropic activities seen in Japan in recent years is welcome to those of us involved in foundation activities. At the same time, though, understanding of what philanthropy truly is still leaves much to be desired.

Individual versus corporate philanthropy

Journalists have asked me whether the bursting of the speculative bubble that artificially inflated the Japanese economy will cause foundations to cut back on their activities. To be sure, the recent business recession and lowering of interest rates are having a serious effect on foundation operations. But lower interest rates have had the greatest influence on foundations dependent on endowment income, and this is a problem they have lived with since the beginning of the so-called bubble economy.

The fate of corporate philanthropy is cause for worry, of course, but a more worrisome issue in Japan is the low level of interest in individual philanthropy. Almost all charitable donations in the United States are made by individuals; donations by businesses account for less than 5 percent of the total. Even if the percentage should rise, it could never become the dominant element. If we wish philanthropy to take firm root in Japan, we should focus our concern on the lack of interest among individual members of society.

Given Japan's business-centered society, some observers assert, it is only natural that companies should shoulder the burden of philanthropy. I cannot argue with this. But since philanthropy is rooted in the spontaneous interaction of individuals with society, in promoting philanthropy we should begin by considering the nature of philanthropy on the individual level. Unless this is the basis of corporations' philanthropic initiatives, Japanese philanthropy as a whole will never pass muster in the international community. It was this viewpoint that led the Toyota Foundation to adopt the pattern of an independent (individual) foundation from the start.

Another worrisome issue has to do with the term "corporate citizen." I cannot help feeling that the

word "citizen" is used much too cavalierly in Japan. I strongly doubt that the attitude toward citizenship that prevails in Western Europe is also found in Japan. And if it is not, sudden exhortations to "be good corporate citizens" must simply cause bafflement in business circles.

In Western Europe, philanthropy begins with the individual; the progression is from individual to corporation, and from individual foundation to corporate foundation. In Japan, by contrast, individual philanthropy rests on an exceedingly fragile foundation. My own occupation is philanthropy, which I conduct "for the sake of society" in both name and fact. Off the job, however, I behave just like any other member of the public; I suspect that I have not yet earned a place as a "member of society." It will take much more time to make philanthropy in Japan an everyday endeavor.

Uneven foundation activities

Ever since its establishment the Toyota Foundation, though a corporate foundation, has conducted itself like an independent (individual) foundation. But individuals and corporations differ in fundamental ways. Naturally enough, bridging these differences takes energy. It requires ideals and a sense of mission firm enough to prevent one from being swayed by outside pressures.

The Foundation concentrates on supporting research activities, but even so there is opposition to the funding of some projects. Projects that seek to resolve the various problems that cast a shadow over society necessarily entail criticism of the status quo. That such endeavors make waves is, perhaps, inevitable, but still I feel for those on the receiving end of criticism. I say this at the risk of being accused of timidity. I am aware that all foundation activities are supposed to be carried out freely and fairly, letting nothing stand in their way. I would just like people to realize that even the world of foundation activities, which appears so calm, is sometimes subject to storms. Of course virtue knows no compromise, as the saying goes. Unfortunately, Japanese society is still not enlightened enough to accommodate even foundation activities aimed at nothing more than debate on the basis of independent research.

Directors and others connected with the Foundation often urge me to do something to make the Foundation "better understood" by the public. If truth be told, our activities are appreciated more overseas than in Japan. Judging from what I have seen of conditions in the United States, in that country society as a whole deems philanthropy to be essential and therefore supports it. In Japan, however, people question why the private sector rather than the government is engaging in such "public" endeavors. What a difference in perceptions!

Those involved in foundation activities come in contact with and get to know many different kinds and levels of nonprofit activities. I am afraid that Japanese philanthropy, backward enough even without the additional handicaps of a legal definition of "public interest corporations" (in Article 34 of the Civil Code) and a taxation system that are out of touch with the realities of today's international community, will not be able to lift itself out of the doldrums for some time.

Whenever I see projects that fail because high aspirations are not matched by the requisite management skills or because the presentation is good but substanceless, I lament the impotence and wasted effort that characterize so much Japanese philanthropy. We must bestir ourselves to create an environment that will enable people of goodwill to realize their aspirations.

In October next year the Toyota Foundation begins its twentieth year. That year, no doubt still affected by the economic downturn, will test the Foundation's mettle. Let us hope that we can make that milestone year the basis of further progress, based on rigorous self-examination. (*Hideo Yamaguchi, Managing Director*)

The Archivo de Indias Project

What is now known as the Archivo de Indias Project came about almost by chance. Sometime in 1985, while in Spain on the track of old documents to be used for a book with the Spanish Philippines as a background, I visited the Archivo General de Indias, in Seville, where all the old documents pertaining to the Spanish regime in the Philippines are stored. What I found was a treasure-trove that would excite any history buff: thousands upon thousands of documents, written on parchment in ancient script, and ranging from royal edicts to letters from a diversity of people—from soldier to captain, from friar to arch-

bishop, from grandee to common clerk—all wanting to bring their problems to the royal attention. The problems, too, were of a colorful diversity, from domestic squabbles to international wars, and each letter was not only revealing of the writer's personality but also reflective of life at the time it was written.

I was so thrilled at this discovery that my immediate thought was that it was a pity that not too many could experience that same excitement. Few would have the privilege of being able to handle and read those precious documents, and of those who might be able to get to Seville, not too many would have the knowledge of Spanish and of the ancient script that would be necessary. Then and there, I decided that something ought to be done about the situation before the ancient papers were destroyed by too much handling. A propitious meeting with Dr. José Llavador, an archival expert, confirmed the feasibility of copying the documents and later translating them into English and publishing them for more general readability.

First steps

That was the beginning. In 1986 I returned to Spain and, with Dr. Llavador, started the actual work, which was described by an incredulous Spanish ambassador who doubted its feasibility as "*un proyecto monumental.*"

The work in the archives was slow at first, but in 1987, with the help of the UNESCO International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, a team of researchers and transcribers was formed and the project gathered momentum. Soon there were enough transcriptions sent to Manila to necessitate the formation of a corresponding team of translators. With the help of the University of the Philippines and the American Express Foundation, the translating team swung into action. The team was composed of professors of Spanish in the various Manila universities who also had the necessary mastery of English.

By 1988 there was enough material for the first book. The editorial team was then organized. The English translations were subject to minute scrutiny by several editors, who made sure not only that the translations were accurate and as close to the Spanish originals as possible but also that the English was correct, albeit with a marked "Spanish accent." Since the translators were reluctant to depart too radically from the sentence construction of the original, the editors decided to maintain this Spanish grammatical construction in order to retain the original Latin flavor, which runs through all the documents.

In 1989 the first book was ready for publication. It was entitled *The Voyages of Discovery* and covered the years 1518 to 1565, starting with the voyage of Ferdinand Magellan and including the voyages of Saavedra, Loaysa, and Villalobos. It had been decided to call the series *The Philippines Under Spain*.

It was at this crucial point, when the project was in need of funds for publication, that the Toyota Foundation came to the rescue. With the help of an international grant from the Foundation, the first book was published and the project came to fruition. It was quickly followed by the second book, *Conquest and Colonization*, covering the events connected with the Legaspi expedition and the first colonization of the Philippines, in 1565.

By the time the first and second books were launched, in 1991, there was already much interest in the project. What was a refreshing surprise was the interest generated not only in the expected academic circles but also among general readers.

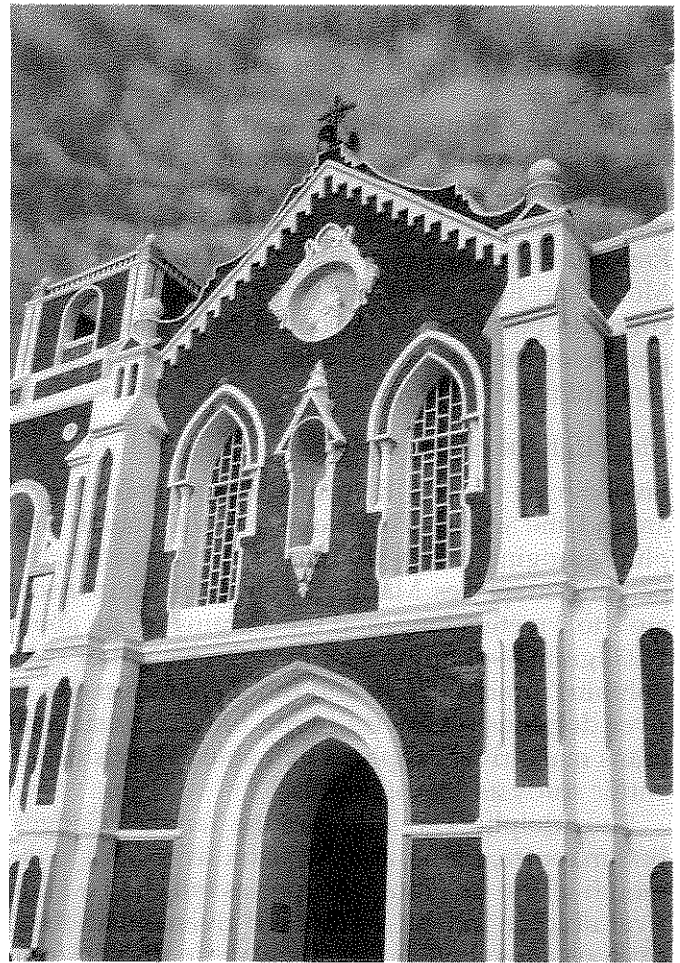
As of this writing the first and second books have already sold out, and requests for copies are still coming in.

The "assembly line"

With the continued assistance of the Toyota Foundation, the material for the third book was made ready. By this time the project "assembly line" was in place and working with precision. This assembly-line method is what is in operation at present. While one book is being printed, another book is being readied by the editors for publication, the documents for still another are being worked on by the translators, and material is being transcribed in Seville for a fourth book. This way, at any given time work on four books is going on simultaneously, and the different teams are never idle. The work is tedious and painstaking, but every time the assembly line completes a book, the members are rewarded by a great sense of accomplishment and encouraged by the favorable reader reaction.

The third book, entitled *All the King's Men*, covers the years 1572 to 1583 and contains a wealth of biographical documentation. By the time it was published, there could be no doubt that the project was a going concern. As proof, in 1992 it received a National Award for outstanding publication. The fourth book, entitled *The Royal Audiencia: Native Unrest and Attempts at Colonial Reforms*, covering the period from 1584 to 1589, was readied for publication, and the fifth book is now on its way.

The continued support of the Toyota Foundation



A Catholic church, legacy of the Philippines' Spanish period

has kept the project going, supplemented by the proceeds from sales of the books, which are carried by all the leading bookstores in the Philippines. There is a regular demand from prospective readers, and judging from the sales of the first books, circulation is limited only by the size of the first editions, which are necessarily small because of financial constraints. The first and second books have sold out. Later it may be possible to increase the print run for the first edition of each book to make the project financially independent.

As it is, the Archivo de Indias Project is already undoubtedly successful. What started in an exhilarating moment of excited discovery has become an equally exciting reality. With the invaluable support of the Toyota Foundation, the "proyecto monumental" has finally been established and will continue, I hope, until all 377 years of the Spanish regime in the Philippines have been covered. (*Virginia Benitez Licuanan, Vice-Chairman, National Trust for Historical and Cultural Preservation of the Philippines*)

International Symposium On Conserving River Dolphins

On February 10 and 11 this year the Toyota Foundation and Ehime University cosponsored an international symposium, "Conservation of River Dolphins: Environmental Pollution Perspectives," at the Ehime Prefectural Convention Hall, in Matsuyama City. More than forty researchers from Japan and other countries participated. As one such researcher, I report below on the background, content, and significance of the symposium.

The plight of river dolphins

Five species of river dolphins inhabit major rivers around the world. These are relatively small dolphins, ranging in length from 1.5 to 2.5 meters, depending on species. Marine dolphins, by comparison, are 2 to 3 meters long, and their brains weigh about 1,500 grams—about three times the weight of river dolphins' brains. These and other characteristics of river dolphins otherwise found only in fossil cetaceans make river dolphins valuable subjects of scientific study as "living fossils."

River dolphins are found in the Yangtze, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus, and Amazon rivers and in the mouth of the La Plata. All species but the La Plata river dolphin inhabit landlocked rivers. In all these river systems there is serious water pollution from rapid population growth and from industrialization. Drastic ecological changes have led to severe deterioration in the river dolphins' habitats—truly a matter of life and death for these animals, unable to migrate to safer locales.

One species of Yangtze river dolphin, in particular, hovers on the brink of extinction. At the beginning of the 1960s there were more than a thousand of these dolphins, but according to a recent report issued by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the population has dropped below the minimum of three hundred considered necessary to sustain the species. Unless strong conservation measures are implemented very soon, it is feared, this species will die out before the end of the century.

Background to the symposium

Professor Zhou Kaiya of Nanjing Normal University, one of China's leading cetacean researchers, asked me to help raise scientific support in Japan, another Asian country, in view of the imminent extinction of these "living fossils" in neighboring China. We organized a joint Sino-Japanese research project, "A

Comparative Study of the Bioaccumulation of Heavy Metals and Organochlorines in Finless Porpoises in Chinese Waters," and applied successfully for a fiscal 1989 Category II research grant (trial and preliminary research) from the Toyota Foundation.

We then organized a broader-based project to study the habitats of these dolphins from the standpoint of pollution problems, enlisting the leadership of Professor Ryo Tatsukawa of the Faculty of Agriculture of Ehime University, one of Japan's leading authorities on environmental chemistry. This project, "An Ecological, Environmental-Chemistry Study of Pollution of the Habitats of Aquatic Mammals in China: Toward Conservation of Yangtze River Dolphins," was awarded a two-year Category III research grant (comprehensive research) in fiscal 1990, and we embarked on a full-scale survey.

The aim of this symposium was to build on the findings of our research by considering scientific measures for conservation of the habitats of river dolphins around the world. Participants from overseas included researchers from countries inhabited by river dolphins—Argentina, Brazil, China, India, and Pakistan—as well as from Britain, Canada, South Africa, Spain, and the United States. Participants from Japan included specialists in environmental chemistry and aquatic mammalogy from Ehime University, the National Science Museum, the University of Tsukuba, and elsewhere.

Symposium proceedings

Researchers reported the latest information on the habitats of river dolphins in each country, along with problem points, and responded to questions from the floor.

It was pointed out that the habitats of the three species of river dolphins found in Asia were steadily deteriorating because of water pollution from factory effluent and from DDT and BHC, used in agriculture and to prevent communicable diseases, and because of rapid ecological changes brought about by the construction of hydroelectric dams.

The report on the Amazon river dolphin attracted interest because although no diminution in numbers is yet being seen, the seven countries through which the Amazon flows are all promoting economic-development projects, and it is feared that environmental pollution will not be confined to individual countries but will extend over a wide area, as indicated by the occurrence of mercury pollution in some regions. Indeed, how researchers relate to the problem of economic development versus conservation

of the natural environment and what they can do to help resolve it was a topic of discussion throughout the symposium.

Tasks for the future

The research in environmental chemistry conducted under the aegis of Professor Tatsukawa at Ehime University received high praise from the participants for its important bearing on conservation of river dolphins and other aquatic mammals. Institutional research of this kind is poorly developed in other Asian countries, and it was urged that an international system for guidance in the field, including overseas study by young researchers, be established.

Much research on river dolphins is basic in nature, and research funds and opportunities for interchange among researchers in this field are extremely limited. All the researchers with whom I spoke after the symposium expressed gratitude to the Toyota Foundation for its help in planning and supporting this scientific meeting to discuss the future of river dolphins. (*Toshiro Kamiya, Visiting Research Fellow, University Museum, University of Tokyo*)

Second Networkers' Forum

With the help of a fiscal 1992 foundation-initiative grant from the Toyota Foundation and grants from other foundations, the second Japan Networkers' Forum, comprising three separate forums and two seminars, met from October 30 through November 8, 1992, in three locales: Kawasaki, Osaka, and Nagoya. Altogether about eight hundred people took part, including staff members of groups engaged in grass-roots activities, managers of business firms' philanthropic activities, and foundation staff members. Five representatives of American nonprofit organizations (NPOs) were also invited to share their experience in networking. NPOs are private-sector organizations engaged in nonprofit activities, that is, activities that are not aimed at making a profit and that serve the public interest.

The first Networkers' Forum (officially named the first Japan Networkers' Conference), held in November 1989 in Tokyo and Osaka, focused on the importance of networking, a new concept in Japanese citizen activities.

The second forum concentrated on ways and means of establishing networking as an organized, socially responsible activity. Major topics included the potential of NPOs, management of grass-roots



A session of the Japan Networkers' Forum in Kawasaki

citizen activities, and partnerships between citizen-activity groups and business firms.

NPOs in the United States

Robert Bothwell, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, reported that the U.S. nonprofit sector includes more than 1.3 million organizations, with total budget funds in excess of \$400 billion. The expansion of American NPOs has been expedited by three factors, he explained: the granting of tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service, the simple incorporation procedures made available by state governments, and strong support systems.

Deborah McGlaufflin, vice president for North America and Europe of the NPO Ashoka, noted that despite these favorable conditions, many organizations oriented toward social change, which play an especially important role among NPOs, are small in scale and have a hard time making ends meet. This is the reason, she said, for the existence of such a variety of support organizations for NPOs. Intermediate organizations promoting or facilitating support for NPOs or networking among them, such as the network of grant-making foundations, management training, and support for communication among NPOs, have come to play an important role.

Richard Smith, national executive director of Support Centers of America, made the point that the infrastructure of NPOs comprises three parts: human resources, funds, and management. Without good management skills, he emphasized, neither human resources nor funds can be utilized effectively. Thus the fate of such organizations rests largely on the caliber of their management.

Another aspect of NPO activities that is attracting interest in the United States is partnerships between NPOs and businesses to accomplish specific objectives. Craig Kennedy, formerly president of the Joyce Foundation, explained that three things are necessary to establish a partnership: the NPO must have clear-cut objectives; both the business firm and the NPO must recognize the importance of associating on equitable and equal terms; and cooperation must be a two-way proposition.

Developments in Japan

The importance of NPOs is gradually gaining recognition in Japan, as well. Yoshinori Yamaoka, a consultant to the Toyota Foundation and the Foundation Library Center of Japan, declared that private-sector nonprofit activities serve the functions of keeping society flexible and capable of reforming itself. NPOs, he said, help society avoid "institutional fatigue" by conducting social experiments that neither corporations nor the government can undertake, by creating pluralistic values, and by offering constructive criticism of business and government.

Unfortunately, small grass-roots citizen-activity groups find it almost impossible to gain corporate status under the terms of Japan's present system of "public interest corporations." To define and strengthen the place of grass-roots citizen activities in Japanese society, there is a strong need for a new "nonprofit corporation" system to encourage the creation of more NPOs. Japan can learn a great deal from the American experience in designing such a support system.

Slowly but surely, though, conditions in Japan are changing for the better. Citizen activities of varied kinds are becoming part of the framework of people's daily life in locales throughout Japan, and this trend is spreading. Kazuyoshi Fujita, president of the Association to Preserve the Earth, noted that citizen activities, pursuing their own ideas and ideals while operating independently within society, are unfolding in a variety of fields, cutting across institutional bounds. And Masami Tashiro, assistant director of the Philanthropy Department of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations), pointed out that businesses, too, are redefining their role in society and expanding their philanthropic activities.

NPOs in a pluralistic society

The need for a variety of public services as Japan's population structure ages and individuals mature calls into question the adequacy of Japan's existing

government- and business-led social system. The global trend toward democratization and citizen initiatives is creating momentum for reform of the old pattern of state-centered social institutions. What is required now is a flexible social system based on self-determination, a system in which a variety of entities supply services to a variety of recipients and in which the providers and recipients of services can engage in joint action and switch roles as necessary. This kind of pluralistic society is the paradigm for a new kind of modern society.

The private sector, especially networking based on citizen-led spontaneity, is what will bring about this kind of pluralistic society. The establishment of networking among NPOs as a social system that forms part of the infrastructure of daily life indicates the shape of society in the next century.

Seven points

The forum served to strengthen the conviction that the private nonprofit sector in Japan will become increasingly important in the future. The participants agreed that the following seven points are of special significance in determining perspectives and actions.

- Emphasis on voluntarism and private-sector interests in establishing NPO activities
- Importance of NPOs' strengthening their own activities and organizations and making them self-reliant
- Expansion and firm establishment of corporate philanthropy
- Promotion of partnerships between business and government on the one hand and citizen activities on the other
- Establishment of NPOs to provide support for NPO activities
- Necessity of a network for joint action among NPOs
- Creation of a legal system for NPOs

On the basis of these and other suggestions, the Japan Networkers' Conference will begin considering a concrete program for creating NPOs suited to Japan. (*Tsuyoshi Kusumi, Planning and Steering Committee, Japan Networkers' Conference*)

Report on Preliminary Studies in Sixth Research Contest

Since fiscal 1979 the Toyota Foundation has sponsored a biennial research contest on the theme "Observing the Community Environment" to en-

courage local residents and professional researchers to cooperate in research related to the local community. People's lives are linked to the environment in many different ways. This contest interprets "environment" broadly, accepting applications for research projects having to do not only with nature but also with social systems, culture, information, human relations, and other intangible aspects of the environment. Of the many teams nationwide that submit research plans, fifteen are awarded grants for nine-month preliminary studies, after which six or seven teams receive grants for two-year main research projects.

In the autumn of 1991, after a three-year comprehensive evaluation of the first five contests, the name of the contest was changed from "Research Contest" to "Citizen Research Contest" to emphasize the importance of local residents' input, and applications for the sixth contest were solicited. Fifteen teams were awarded grants for preliminary studies lasting from April to December 1992.

Between October 16 and December 5, five members of the Citizen Research Contest selection committee and I traveled around Japan conducting on-site interviews with these teams as part of the Foundation's evaluation of their projects. The fifteen teams were scattered from Aomori Prefecture in the north to the island of Shikoku and Yamaguchi prefecture in the southwest. Members of the committee, dividing up the territory among them, managed despite their busy schedules to visit every team. Having accompanied all the committee members, I would like to relate my overall impressions.

Multifaceted environmental concerns

Last year global problems of environment and development received a great deal of publicity, most notably at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro. There was a tendency for attention to focus on the countries of the so-called third world. As it happened, our interviews of Citizen Research Contest teams served to emphasize various problems of environment and development—or conditions in the aftermath of such problems—affecting local communities in Japan.

Teams studying the ecology of living things found that they could not avoid taking into account local development, which brings with it destruction of habitats and other changes in the natural environment.

Such teams included the Study Group on the Osekka's Habitat (Aomori Prefecture), investigating

the relationship between the ecology of the elusive bird known as the *osekka* and the grassy marshlands of northern Japan; the Tenryu Village Gifucho Study Group (Nagano Prefecture), studying the outdoor behavior of the *gifucho* butterfly, a "living fossil"; the Study Group on Oshima Interstitial Fauna (Ehime Prefecture), observing the ecology of beach-dwelling creatures; the Komadome Environmental Study Group (Fukushima Prefecture), surveying the Komadome marshlands and the mysteries of their luminous organisms; and the Oshima Nature Lovers Society (Tokyo), examining the relationship between pioneer plants and insects on Mount Mihara, Oshima, in the wake of its 1986 eruption.

Teams whose projects focused on lifestyle and culture also clarified, through field observation and interviews, the close links of these aspects of the environment with such changes in the community as urbanization, the opening of high-speed express train lines, highway construction, and the development



Members of the Gamono Kogen Club examining a roadside ditch running through a farm village in Shiga Prefecture

of new satellite towns near big cities. These teams included the Ishiuchi Society for Children and Community Development (Niigata Prefecture), undertaking the production, together with children, of a riddle book on Ishiuchi; the Discussion Group on Suwa Environment and Urban Development (Nagano Prefecture), seeking to rediscover the community skills and lifestyle of ancient ancestors; the Gamono Kogen Club (Shiga Prefecture), considering the extraordinary features of the water environ-

ment of an ordinary farm village; and the Study Group on Kobe Roads (Hyogo Prefecture), aiming to excavate lost roads.

Insights through interviews

Interviews give us a feel for team members' individuality and the special features of the teams' fields of research that cannot be conveyed by written research plans, thus enabling us to grasp more vividly the nature of the teams and their research themes.

The Tokyo Dangomushi Society, led by an energetic and resilient woman, was exploring the possibility of diagnosing environmental ills by studying soil animals. And the Inagi Study Group on Daily Life (Tokyo) demonstrated the power of a group of mothers determined to have a loop bus system established in Inagi City. Visiting this hilly area and seeing for ourselves its inadequate public transportation helped us understand clearly the reasons for wanting such a bus system.

Kaze-no-oka Village (Yamaguchi Prefecture) was attempting to create a more natural lifestyle using electricity generated by wind-driven propellers. Team members would fan out to interview people on village life and then get together to discuss their findings and ideas. The members of the Study Group on Outdoor Activities (Aichi Prefecture) had been observing the living environment of this "scrap and build" period since 1970 in search of what is truly important to each person. This team included a wide variety of members: people who collect flotsam, those who study the ingredients of box lunches, those who observe street litter.

The research project of the Society for Reviewing Toyoshima's Local Culture (Hiroshima Prefecture) focused on the traditional local culture and child-care customs of a small island in the Inland Sea. As I strolled along the narrow island roads, I reflected that this project could lead to a fundamental review of the nature of family and community in contemporary Japan.

The last team I visited was the Society to Record the History of the Tamba Manganese Mine (Kyoto Prefecture). This team was exploring the dark side of the history of Japanese modernization, focusing on oral testimony from Korean miners suffering from the aftereffects of pneumoconiosis. I went into one of the remaining tunnels of a manganese mine, and felt keenly both the weight of history and the importance of a continuous record of historical facts.

Some of the fifteen teams introduced briefly here were experienced; others were still green. Although

somewhat tentative about the parameters and methodology of their research projects, all the teams brought an impressive zest to their citizen research.

On January 23 and 24 this year a symposium to report on the results of preliminary studies was held and the selection committee chose seven teams, including the Study Group on the Osekka's Habitat and the Study Group on Oshima Interstitial Fauna, to receive two-year main research project grants. I hope that these teams will continue, in the same unassuming way, to develop research activities rooted in the community. (*Natsuko Hagiwara, Program Associate*)

Incentive Grants for Indonesian Researchers

Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers is a program that awards relatively small (maximum Rp6 million) one-year grants to Indonesian researchers under thirty-six years of age. Under this program applications are publicly solicited and may be submitted in Indonesian. Any Indonesian with a university degree is eligible. There are no restrictions in regard to institutional affiliation: not only academics but also journalists, members of non-governmental organizations, and individuals in other walks of life who wish to conduct research may apply.

Growth of the program

Since fiscal 1987, when these incentive grants were inaugurated as a subprogram administered by the International Grant Program, the number of applications has grown yearly, rising from 273 in fiscal 1987 to 337, 410, 418, 528, and 815 before jumping to 1,144 in fiscal 1993. Factors behind this rapid increase include the spread of higher education in Indonesia; the rising number of graduate students as graduate schools improve (a significant proportion of incentive grants support the preparation of M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations); and the introduction of a point system for the promotion of university faculty, which has prompted increased enthusiasm for research among young university researchers eager to gain points.

The Foundation has responded to the growth in applications by increasing the number of grants and the total grant funds from 17 grants, totaling Rp56.55 million, or ¥5.03 million, in fiscal 1987 to 18 (Rp65.70 million, or US\$38,700), 24 (Rp81.39 million, or \$45,600), 31 (Rp125.83 million, or \$67,700), 35

(Rp142.10 million, or \$72,300), and, in fiscal 1992, 61 (Rp241.60 million, or \$119,100). To cope with the increased paperwork generated by the growing number of applications, since November 1992 the Foundation has been processing applications in cooperation with the Yayasan Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial (Social Science Foundation), a private Indonesian foundation.

Meanwhile, as a follow-up measure, in 1989, 1991, and 1992 the Foundation sponsored workshops in Indonesia to enable grant recipients to deliver reports on their research findings. In 1992 a workshop for the delivery of interim reports on research in progress was also held to enable grant recipients to benefit from input from more experienced researchers. It is planned to continue this two-workshop format.

A program to publish collections of outstanding research reports has also been inaugurated. The first collection, including seven papers, was published in Jakarta by LP3ES in December 1992 under the title *Ketenagakerjaan, Kewirausahaan dan Pembangunan Ekonomi: Analisa dan Persepsi Peneliti Muda* (Labor, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development: Analyses and Perceptions of Young Researchers), edited by Prijono Tjiptoherijanto. The second and third volumes, which will include papers on history, ethnology, culture, literature, and other fields, are now in preparation. It is planned to continue this publication program, as well.

Considerations of quality

Publication of the first volume of papers marked the completion, finally, of one full cycle of the incentive-grant program. In the course of that cycle the number of applications more than quadrupled; clearly the program has proved extremely popular. An increase in applications, however, does not in itself mean that the program's objectives have been met. More important is the way in which the quality of research has changed. Here the picture is less clear.

All that the Foundation can do is provide eager young researchers with opportunities for research by alleviating one problem that has hindered the development of the social sciences in Indonesia: the severe inadequacy of research funds. Whether these opportunities result in truly independent and creative research depends partly upon other social conditions but most importantly upon the hard work and boldness of young Indonesian researchers themselves. (*Toichi Makita, Program Officer, International Division*)

"Know Our Neighbors" Books

Following are brief reviews of five books recently published under the Toyota Foundation's "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Program in Japan, which supports the translation and publication in Japanese of Southeast and South Asian works of literary, scholarly, and social significance.

Hon Dat. Anh Duc. Trans. Kenji Tomita. Published in Japanese as *Hon Datto Dokutsu no Yoake: Betonamu Senso o Sasaeta Joseitachi* (Dawn over the Caves of Hon Dat: The Women Who Provided the Support for the Vietnam War). Tokyo: Hodaka Shoten, 1992. 506 pp. ISBN 4-938672-14-6.

Through its depiction of a variety of characters, both friend and foe, this novel portrays vividly the courage with which the villagers of Hon Dat, Rach Gia Province, in southern Vietnam's Mekong Delta, resisted a mopping-up operation by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces early in 1961. The story focuses on the heroic struggle of Su, an ordinary Vietnamese woman, amid the cruel circumstances of war. As daughter, sister, wife, mother, neighbor, comrade, teacher, and—above all—human being, she seems to embody in concentrated form all human potential. The novel describes what were, in time of war, quite ordinary occurrences—the kinds of things that probably really happened to ordinary people in an ordinary Vietnamese village—although they seem to us today almost unimaginable.

The author, Anh Duc, formerly a member of the standing committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association, has written many short stories, including "Bien dong" (Sea Storm), winner of the Cuulong Prize; "Mot chuyen chep o benh vien" (A Tale Recorded in a Hospital); and "Dua con cua dat" (Child of the Earth). *Hon Dat*, which received the Nguyen Dinh Chieu Literary Award, was written when Anh Duc was thirty years old.

Nhung Nam Thang Khong The Nao Quyen: Huu Mai ghi. Vo Nguyen Giap. Trans. Ari Nakano. Published in Japanese as *Ajia Bunka Sosho 5: Wasurerarenai Nengetsu, Fuu Mai ni yoru Kikigaki* (Asian Cultural Library 5: Unforgettable Times, Recorded by Huu Mai). Tokyo: Hodaka Shoten, 1992. 185 pp. ISBN 4-938672-12-x.

This memoir dictated by Vo Nguyen Giap, the shrewd general who led the Viet Minh to victory in the war against first the French and then the Americans, focuses mainly on his recollections of Ho Chi

Minh. In August 1945, just before Japan's surrender, the Indochina Communist Party, under Ho's leadership, convened a national congress in the village of Tan Trao, in Tuyen Quang Province, at which it was decided to mount a general uprising.

The memoir begins with the entry into Hanoi and the establishment of a new regime by Ho and his comrades after the successful August Revolution. Vo narrates the ins and outs of the ensuing negotiations with the French colonial authorities, who returned to Indochina after World War II, and with Chiang Kai-shek, whose forces were entrenched in northern Vietnam, along with anecdotes about Ho and the people around him. Huu Mai, who recorded Vo's recollections, is a writer who was involved in Viet Minh literary activities during the war against France and the United States.

If other countries, Japan included, wish to understand present-day Vietnam, they must gain a clear picture of the nature of the freedom and democracy to which Ho originally aspired. This book, retracing as it does the origins of the Vietnamese Revolution, is a valuable aid in that endeavor.

Mua Mua Ha. Ma Van Khang. Trans. Sakae Kato. Published in Japanese as *Natsu no Ame* (Summer Rain). Tokyo: Shinjuku Shobo, 1992. 328 pp. ISBN 4-88008-172-8.

Trends in Vietnam, a major Southeast Asian socialist state, have been watched carefully since the collapse of the Soviet Union. *Mua Mua Ha*, published in Vietnam in 1982, is the first important post-liberation Vietnamese literary novel to be translated into Japanese. The author, born in 1936, is a member of the Vietnam Writers' Association and at present is editor in chief of the publishing company affiliated with the Confederation of Vietnam Laborers.

The action takes place in the late 1970s. At that time Vietnam was beset by extremely difficult conditions. Internally, it was necessary to deal with the failure of the hasty imposition of socialism on southern Vietnam after liberation, as well as crop failures caused by a series of natural disasters. Externally, Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia, heightening tension with China and leading eventually to actual hostilities, albeit on a limited scale.

The novel, set against the backdrop of the great flood and crumbling of levees that actually took place in the Red River Delta, depicts vividly the contrast between the protagonist, an idealistic young architectural engineer eager to build socialism, and the people around him, especially bureaucratic Commu-

nist Party functionaries and government officials and venial civilians in avid pursuit of personal profit (including some who were already planning capitalistic business ventures).

More than twelve years have passed since this novel was completed in 1980. In the meantime Vietnam, while adhering to a socialist system, has undergone great changes. Readers who approach the novel as a source of information on Vietnam may consider it dated and thus be disappointed; but as the translator writes in his afterword, "This work is so solidly constructed that it can be profitably read as a work of literature, independent of the story's setting." *Mua Mua Ha* is indeed a major novel, transcending the limits of its time to express fully the traditional culture and mentality of the Vietnamese. No work could serve as a better introduction to the people and the heart of Vietnam.

Khvam Pen Ma Khong Kham Sayam Thai Lao Le Khom Le Laksana Thang Sangkom Khong Chu Chonchat. Cit Phumisak. Trans. Hinako Sakamoto. Published in Japanese as *Tai Zoku no Rekishi: Minzokumei no Kigen Kara* (A History of the Thai People: From the Origins of the Name). Tokyo: Imura Cultural Enterprise Co., 1992. 487 pp. ISBN 4-326-91112-3.

There has been a tendency to view Cit Phumisak first and foremost as a revolutionary. Born in northeastern Thailand in 1930, he was shot to death by government troops in 1966 while in hiding in the jungle as a member of the resistance front. But at Chulalongkorn University and in prison he wrote many works in fields ranging from history, literature, and translations to poetry. Recently he has been gaining recognition as a scholar.

This book, Cit's final work, systematically examines and analyzes the genesis of the Thai people by elucidating the origin of "Siam" and other words having to do with the Thais and demonstrating the inadequacy or fallacy of earlier theories based on these terms. In addition to being a historical and linguistic study of the first order, this work is a moving account of the way in which a people conquered, oppressed and scorned managed to retain its pride, sense of identity, and valor. Cit's stern but compassionate regard for the downtrodden comes across clearly.

This book, begun while Cit was in prison and left unfinished because of his untimely death, is finally gaining the appreciation it deserves after a quarter of a century. Its message is sure to elicit sympathy and support from the people of Thailand.

"Kejatuhan dan Hati," "Awal dan Mira," and Other Stories. Siti Rukiah and Utuy Tatang Sontani. Trans. Akihisa Matsuno. Published in Japanese as *Kodoku na Ai no Fukei: 1950 Nendai no Indonesia Bungaku Kara* (Scenes of Lonely Love: Indonesian Literature of the 1950s). Tokyo: Gendai Kikakushitsu, 1992. 312 pp. ISBN 4-7738-9219-6.

Indonesia declared independence in August 1945, immediately after Japan's defeat in World War II. This was followed by a four-year struggle against the Netherlands, but by the 1950s Indonesia had finally managed to wrest sovereignty from its erstwhile colonial overlord. The people's hopes were high, but their lives were still hard, and conflict among political factions over post-independence policies was severe. Both hope and sorrow tugged at people's hearts.

This anthology includes works by two contemporary writers who eloquently chronicled the mental and emotional conflicts of both ordinary people and intellectuals during this turbulent period: Siti Rukiah and Utuy Tatang Sontani, both of Sundanese origin.

Rukiah was a poet as well as a writer of prose fiction. In the story "Kejatuhan dan Hati" (The Fall and the Heart) she vividly describes a woman's spiritual pilgrimage against the background of the political conditions of the time. Utuy, meanwhile, was primarily a dramatist. The five works by him in this collection depict, through the skillful use of dialogue, the pathos of human folly and selfishness and the need to love that drives people despite—or, rather, because of—their hapless state.

After the September 30 incident of 1965, when a number of generals were assassinated, the government ruthlessly suppressed the Indonesian Communist Party. Rukiah's works were banned and Utuy was forced into exile—an indication of just how much both writers were children of their times.

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo: Japanese Cinema Under the American Occupation, 1945–1952. Kyoko Hirano. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992. 384 pp. ISBN 1-56098-157-1. In English.

This book studies the censorship of Japanese movies carried out by the Allied (actually, U.S.) forces that occupied Japan from 1945 to 1952, elucidating the way in which the Occupation authorities utilized

the Japanese movie industry to facilitate the fulfillment of their objectives. The author has examined uncatalogued military documents in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo, scenarios of censored movies, and hundreds of reels of film, and has also interviewed Japanese involved in the movie industry at the time. The research on which the book is based was funded in part by a research grant in fiscal 1985.

Analyzing individual movies, the author demonstrates that those that were approved by the Occupation authorities met certain criteria, whereas those that were rejected had certain forbidden topics in common. She also reviews the changes that took place in the censorship system over the course of the Occupation, from the time of General Douglas MacArthur's rule until the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, making this book a valuable source for understanding modern Japan-U.S. relations.

Wood & Stone for God's Greater Glory: Jesuit Art & Architecture in the Philippines. René Javellana, S.J. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1991. 264 pp. ISBN 971-550-055-2 (hardcover); ISBN 971-550-056-0 (paperback). In English.

Excluding the period of their absence from the Philippines occasioned by the brief papal abolition of their order, Jesuit missionaries had a great influence on the development of towns in the frontier areas of the Visayas and Mindanao, from which they conducted their missionary activities. This book documents the history of the art and architecture of the Jesuit churches in these areas, provides a visual record of both extant churches and ruins, and records the history of the towns established by the missionaries. The author was awarded international grants in fiscal 1987 and 1988.

Hiligaynon Literature: Texts and Contexts. Lucila V. Hosillos, ed. Quezon City: Aqua-Land Enterprises, 1992. 365 pp. ISBN 971-636-000-2 (hardcover); ISBN 971-636-001-0 (paperback). In English.

Ilonggo is spoken on the central islands of the Philippines, the nation's sugar-producing region. The rapid growth of the sugar industry generated vast wealth, but its subsequent decline resulted in unemployment among the farmers and mounting social unrest.

Literature reflects history. This historical anthology of Ilonggo literature aims to clarify the relationship between literature and the economic, political, and social climate that forms its background. The anthology includes poems, stories, dramas, proverbs,

and legends selected and translated into English with the help of fiscal 1988 and 1989 international grants.

Encyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs. Francisco R. Demetrio, S.J., ed. 2 vols. Cagayan de Oro City: Xavier University, 1991. Vol. 1, 702 pp. Vol. 2, 634 pp. In English.

This is a revised and expanded version of the four-volume *Dictionary of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs*, published in 1970 and now out of print. Only one thousand sets of the dictionary were printed, and most are in other countries. Meanwhile, in the past twenty years Filipinos have grown increasingly interested in their own culture, and demand for the dictionary has risen accordingly.

Encyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs includes 8,200 entries, three times the number in the earlier work. Proverbs and other expressions providing examples of folk beliefs and customs have been collected from most of the Philippines' seventy-three provinces, giving this work a much greater geographical scope than its predecessor. The editor was awarded an international grant in fiscal 1986.

Wacthananukom Phasa Lao (Dictionary of the Lao Language). Thongkham Onemanisone, ed. Vientiane: Ministry of Information and Culture, 1992. 826 pp. In Lao.

This dictionary of the Lao language contains about twenty thousand vocabulary items. An earlier dictionary, compiled under the direction of the late Maha Sila Viravong and published in 1960, does exist, but copies are scarce. Moreover, since its publication many new words have entered the language, while other words have changed in meaning. In view of these problems, it was decided to compile a new dictionary under the editorial direction of Thongkham Onemanisone, director of the Department of Literature, Ministry of Information and Culture, a project supported by international grants in fiscal 1988, 1989, and 1990.

The compilers consulted Maha Sila Viravong's dictionary and Lao-French, Lao-English, and north-eastern Thai-standard Thai dictionaries. They also made use of palm-leaf manuscripts, books, magazines, and newspapers to investigate new words and verify meanings. Numerous examples of usage enhance the dictionary's practical value. In addition, its presentation of consistent orthographic principles should help in the standardization of Lao orthography.

About the Foundation

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The International Division administers the International Grant Program and such other programs as the "Know Our Neighbors" Programs. The International Grant Program is directed mainly toward the developing countries and supports projects that best meet the needs of their present-day society. At present this program concentrates on projects aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and conducted by indigenous researchers. The "Know Our Neighbors" Programs support the translation and publication of Southeast and South Asian works in Japanese and vice versa, and of Southeast and South Asian works in other Southeast and South Asian languages.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes response from readers of the *Occasional Report*. Comments and questions should be addressed to the International Division, The Toyota Foundation, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-04, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

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