

# OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 27

## THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

July 1999

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### Beyond the Completion of the Industrial Heritage Database

Compiling the Past for the Future

Shoji Ishida

*Industrial Heritage Study Group*

#### The Roots of Our Research

At the risk of blowing my own horn, I believe I may have been the first to state the need for a database of Japan's industrial heritage. Exactly 10 years ago, in the summer of 1989, I presented a report titled "Surveying and Creating a Database System for Industrial Heritage Sites" at the national conference of the Japan Industrial Archaeology Society held in Hokkaido. In this report I proposed the use of computers to create a database, saying: "An urgent task now is the collection and preservation of all kinds of information on our industrial heritage, and the construction of a system whereby that information can be used efficiently."

That which led me to make this proposal was the problem of preserving this heritage. Earlier that decade a comprehensive survey of industrial ruins and relics in Aichi Prefecture had been carried out with a Toyota Foundation award received in the Third Research Contest, and the results of that survey released in report form. The issue that came to the forefront during the course of the survey and research was how to preserve these materials that are in danger of disappearing. At that time almost none of this sort of research had been carried out in Japan, and it was a daunting task to define the historical value that made these relics and ruins worth preservation. There was a lack of information about whether a certain object was the only remaining one of their kind, or was the oldest still in existence, or represented an epochal milestone in the course of industrial and technological development, making it difficult to clarify this historical worth.

One discovery during the survey of industrial relics in Aichi was of a rare propeller-shaped waterwheel used for generating electricity (see photo). As

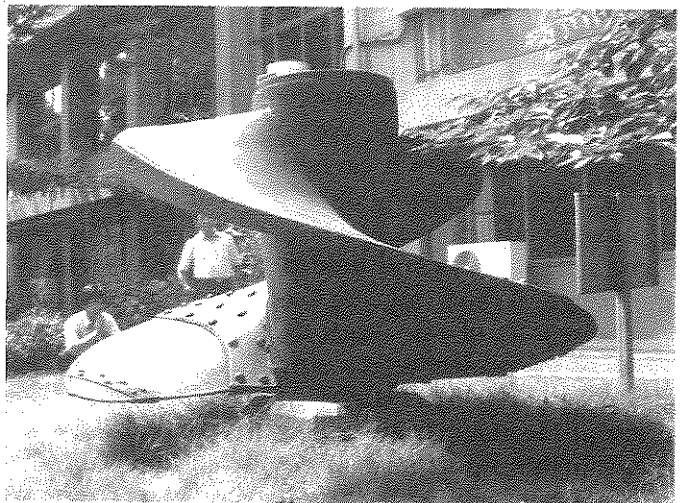
part of the survey, we asked a science museum in London for information on any similar devices and their whereabouts. Right away the museum replied that a waterwheel of the same type was among the items in its collection and provided us with related documents. It was this swift response that brought home to me the need for a database of this type of information in Japan.

#### Our Work to Date

In May 1990, with a view to creating just such a computerized database, a JIAS group headed by Professor Hoshimi Uchida of Tokyo Keizai University applied for a Research Grant. The application was approved for a Foundation Initiative Grant, and in November that year concrete research kicked off under the title "Establishment of a Database of the Industrial Heritage of Modern Japan."

At that time computer database systems were being designed and used for information related to corporate management or science and technology. There was no example of a successful database in the field of the social sciences that we could draw on in planning one for the industrial heritage project.

Data relating to industrial heritage in fact encompasses a vast range of information. Much of this information—an item's name, location, survey photograph, state of preservation, and the like—is not in a fixed format and thus not easily handled by com-



*The unusual waterwheel, originally used in Shizuoka.*



*The transformer building of the former Toyoda Spinning Co. is now open as an industrial heritage memorial hall.*

puter. We were confronted with issues that had not been dealt with before, including methods for collecting the information; how to format, process, search through, and use the data; and even the very concept of industrial heritage and the framework in which it exists.

In its first year the project focused first on basic questions surrounding the industrial heritage database. We were nearly overwhelmed by the sheer volume of issues that had to be tackled, but through lengthy discussions we came to grips with the basic problems involved in creating a database system. These included a conception of industrial heritage, the types into which it could be divided, the composition of the data, issues arising from the collection and processing of that data, and the computerization of the system.

The second year saw work begin in June 1992 on designing the database. We continued building on the results of research carried out in the first year while collecting existing data from various academic groups. In addition, a working group implemented some trial surveys and held further discussions on the design of the computer model to be used.

The results of our work in the first and second years of the project were compiled in an interim report: "Research on a Database System for Japan's Industrial Heritage." Some of the theoretical issues raised in this report, such as how to conceptualize industrial heritage, were later presented at a special session of the 1995 JIAS national conference held in

Gifu titled "Industrial Heritage Research Methodology."

The third year of the project, which kicked off in 1994, involved a continuation of the research undertaken in the second year. In addition, energy was devoted to supporting the development of local organizations to provide a base for future full-scale industrial heritage surveys on a nationwide level. Progress was made toward the creation of groups in the Kanto, Tokai, and Kansai regions, as well as in Kyushu and the Hiroshima area. Another topic of discussion was how to tie our efforts to others in the field—notably the surveys on the succession of industrial technologies carried out by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's Agency of Industrial

Science and Technology and the Japan Research Industries Association; and the comprehensive surveys of relics of modernization carried out by the Agency for Cultural Affairs at the prefectural level. With respect to our computerization efforts, we continued our research into relational database systems, placing special emphasis on ways to handle image-based data.

Our own research during the third year was paralleled by a series of Chubu Industrial Advancement Center surveys relating to building an industrial heritage database, carried out from October that year by a research committee chaired by Professor Tetsuo Fujimura of Chubu University. This research continued for almost three years, until March 1997. As Masaaki Kusumi of the Toyota Foundation and I both served on the committee, we were able to advance both the Foundation-sponsored research and the Chubu project synergistically. The results of this work, which entailed surveys carried out at museums in the five prefectures of the Chubu region, were compiled in a report on the location of Chubu-area industrial relics. The research also led to proposals on the creation of an experimental model for publishing the industrial heritage database on the Internet and on the need for industrial technology museums and research organizations to manage the database.

At the same time the third year wrapped up, in October 1997 we began work on a new project—"The Development of a Description, Image, and Map Database for Japan's Industrial Heritage"—to give concrete form to the results of our 10 years of research.

This project was officially recognized as one contributing to the creation of multimedia content by the Multimedia Content Association of Japan (MMCA), an organization charged with this task by the MITI-funded Information-Technology Promotion Agency. The work fell not only to myself, but to a consortium of several companies.

### The Tasks Ahead

On November 30, 1998, we finished the development of the Description, Image, and Map Database and submitted our work to the MMCA. The database comprises some 7,000 separate entries, includes over 20,000 image files, and features geographical data links so the location of an industrial relic can be pinpointed on a map. While the database nominally covers the entire nation, the data at present comes from seven researchers in the Chubu region, and so is unavoidably heavily weighted toward industrial relics there. One of the main tasks to be addressed, therefore, is to actively increase and fill out the database with the cooperation of researchers in various other regions of Japan.

Another key question concerns where to carry out the management and operation of the database itself. For the time being the Industrial Heritage Database Study Group is handling these tasks, but there is an urgent need to select an organization to take over database management on a more permanent basis. We believe that a specialized research organization or museum would be ideal for the job.

The industrial heritage database has been made available to the public by the Toyota Foundation, which has kindly donated space on its Website beginning in April 1999. We hope to see as many people as possible avail themselves of this information.

## Toward a Social Art and an Artistic Society

**Yasuo Harima**

*Chairperson*

*Tanpopo-no-Ye Foundation*

### Successful Exhibitions of Able Art

For about a month starting in mid-February, the Able Art '99 exhibition was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. Sponsored by the museum, the Asahi

Shimbun, and the Association of Art, Culture, and People with Disabilities, Japan, this was the largest-ever exhibition in Japan of artwork by disabled people.

Some 450 works created by 45 artists were displayed under the theme "Cheering Up with Art." The show attracted much public attention, and the *Asahi Evening News* art column praised it highly, while *News 23*, a Tokyo Broadcasting System television program, did a special feature on it.

Osaka and Tokyo had hosted three Able Art exhibitions prior to this year's event. The series first came to be widely noticed in 1997, when the exhibition was held for the first time at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. This exhibit, with the theme "Dialogue of the Spirit," was a collection of paintings by artists of the Mizunoki Workshop, a facility in Kyoto for intellectually disabled people, and clay figures by children of the Chiba School for the Blind created over many years. The show was put together with the hope of imparting to visitors the pleasure of "engaging in dialogue" with the artwork and the joy that arises when people's spirits come together.

I believe that in the 1997 show we were able to display what might be considered the very opposite of what has been conceptualized as art up to now—works that transcend conventional views of art through their modes of expression. The exhibition demonstrated that art by the disabled seeks a different kind of existence from what is known as modern art and, furthermore, that it necessitates a reappraisal of art's role in and impact on society. This revelation sparked a strong public response, and the art world came to focus attention on these works as well. It was from around this time that the term *able art* began to be used in various contexts.

### Birth of New Art

This year, with the strong encouragement of the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, we displayed twice as many works as last time and expanded the exhibition from two to five weeks. But what gave me the greatest joy was that over 17,000 visitors came despite having to pay an admission fee to see an exhibition that had in the past been free of charge. We also find great significance in the fact that we have been able to hold the exhibition twice in a row at such a venue. For many years, art by the disabled had been shut out from institutionalized facilities like public museums.

Japanese society has been plagued with a sense of helplessness ever since the collapse of the bubble economy, and there has been a string of disturbing

incidents that have caused people to feel wary toward others. Modern society's neglect of its humanistic elements is now taking its toll in the form of various pathological phenomena. We felt a need for an art movement that would counter this situation and infuse society with renewed vitality. For this reason we rejected the "outsider" label usually applied to these works in favor of the more humanistic name of "able art." We began advocating the able art movement four years ago, calling for a reappraisal of art by the disabled from a fresh perspective.

The movement was initiated to enhance the abilities of people who have been socially devalued and improve the way in which the public views them, all through art. Efforts like these—to restore the dignity of social minorities through cultural means—are most important for disabled people, because the societal exclusion of and discrimination against minorities are problems rooted not only in the social structure but also in the cultural milieu.

Four years later, the movement has succeeded in discovering an aesthetic value in able art apart from that of conceptual art and has evolved into a movement that pursues the issue of what role able art can play in liberating the human soul.

### The Start of the Movement and Its Spreading Support

Art activities involving disabled people started gaining force in Japan in the 1980s, centered around welfare facilities. Documentary sources indicate that

pioneering efforts began in the 1950s; among them the Mizunoki Workshop is particularly worthy of notice. Drawing classes were started at Mizunoki Dormitory in the late 1960s by Japanese-style artist Chuichi Nishigaki. Today the artwork created here is internationally acclaimed.

Art classes were first introduced at Mizunoki Dormitory as rehabilitation for those with severe disabilities. But thanks to Nishigaki's efficient guidance and keenness in discovering each person's latent abilities—pinpointing whether an artist has greater potential in a representational or abstract approach, for example—together with the dormitory's support in the face of insufficient financial resources, the doors were opened to the possibility of engaging in art education in earnest.

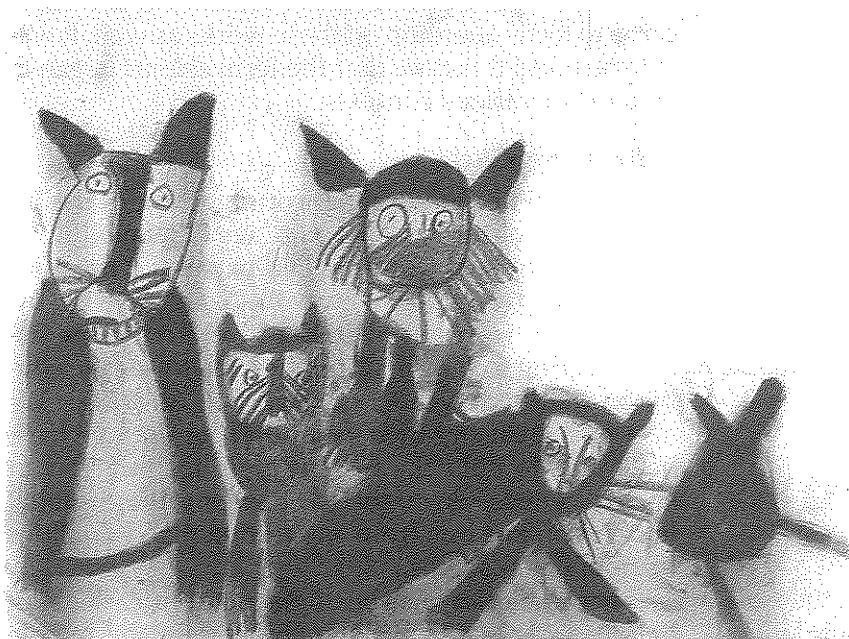
Soon after the workshop began considering ways of heightening the artistic value of its activities, it was able to obtain grants from the Toyota Foundation three times between 1980 and 1986. The works created as a result of these grants, some of which have been housed at the Collection de l'Art Brut museum in Switzerland, led to the international reputation that the Mizunoki Workshop enjoys today.

We did not see Mizunoki's legacy from these years as a product of chance, or a development to be dismissed as a sort of nonreproducible miracle. We moved instead to initiate a cultural strategy to broaden this kind of effort. This was one of the factors that led to the able art movement. These people are able, yet the social system is disabling them—to deliver this message to the public, we felt that a new movement would be most effective.

Various enterprises have offered their support, financial and otherwise, for this cause. Toyota Motor Corp., in particular, has labeled its backing of able art as one of the pillars of its activities contributing to society. It has been sponsoring the Toyota Able Art Forum since 1996, in which symposiums and workshops are held throughout Japan.

### Able Art in the Twenty-first Century

Able art contains expressions of the human being's fundamental *sei* (which can variously mean *life*, *eros*, and *sanc-tity*). These elements have the power to cheer, soothe, or provoke new revelations in people who come into contact with the artwork. This "art of the soul" has been able to grow into a dynamic



Neko (Cats), a 1981 charcoal drawing by Toshiaki Yoshikawa.



*Able Art '99, the largest-ever exhibition of art by the disabled.*

movement in only five years because societal values are undergoing a shift. It can be said that a new art form is discovered with every new age.

The next issue facing able art is how to organize, exhibit, and preserve the massive amount of artwork that has been accumulated across Japan in facilities like Mizunoki Dormitory. The groups that have been engaging in able art activities the longest tend to be lagging in their organization and preservation of the works created, which are consequently in greater danger of becoming damaged or lost. We are therefore preparing to kick off a new project to archive these works digitally as a "legacy of humanity for the twenty-first century." As this will be an extensive project to record the workings of the human soul, we hope for broad support.

## Wrapping Up Our First Quarter Century

### A Look at Our Plans for Fiscal 1999

**Chimaki Kurokawa**  
*Managing Director*

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Toyota Foundation Board of Directors was convened on March 17, 1999. There the directors decided on the Foundation Initiative Grants, Grants for Citizen Activities, and other awards for fiscal 1998, as well as approving the fiscal 1999 activity program. Below are listed some of the main directions in which activities will be devel-

oped and descriptions of some of the key components of those activities.

### Basic Themes for this Fiscal Year

As societal conditions continue to change at an ever greater pace, it is vital that the Toyota Foundation also evolve and mature. This societal change is evidenced in five major areas: (1) the march of globalization in a wide range of fields, from economics to society and culture; (2) the economic crisis that has swept the nations of Asia; (3) new anthropogenic threats to the environment, such as endocrine disruptors; (4) the growth of information systems; and (5) new developments in Japan's civil society. We need to evaluate and adjust our current programs in line with these processes of change.

As well as fleshing out our grant programs, we must also put more energy into the activities undertaken by the Foundation itself. This will necessitate the strengthening of our fiscal base and the further development of our information systems; furthermore, Toyota Foundation staff will be called on to hone their own abilities. These are some of the themes I would like to see us tackle from now on.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Toyota Foundation. I feel that planning and implementing commemorative activities on this occasion will benefit us in terms of laying the groundwork for the development of new activities in the future. These activities should not be considered solely on a single-year basis, but should be conceived as continuing projects meant to broaden the scope of Foundation activities into the twenty-first century. I would like to see several plans considered carefully and implemented during the period from fiscal 1999 through fiscal 2001.

### Key Measures to be Implemented

In line with the basic themes listed above, the Toyota Foundation has established measures to be put in effect in the following areas.

#### *Commemorative events for the Foundation's twenty-fifth anniversary*

We are now considering the following sorts of events to celebrate the Foundation's first quarter-century. These will be supplemented with other, new plans, and their details will be fleshed out with a view to ensuring their feasibility and their realization.

1. Compilation of an "oral history" of the Foundation through interviews of Foundation staff and other related individuals

2. Sponsorship of symposiums and workshops based on the results of past Toyota Foundation grants
3. Support for the establishment of a Syrian natural history museum (a project supported by Foundation Initiative Grants in fiscal 1996, 1997, and 1998)
4. Implementation of promotional projects for the nonprofit sector

#### *Globalization of Foundation activities*

There is widespread movement toward the creation of international networks of groups working for the public interest, such as grant-making foundations and nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations. In the future foundations in Japan will need to have a more forceful voice. I feel we should place special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region and carry out more information-sharing among organizations, joint projects, and multilateral grant activities. I would also like to see the Toyota Foundation build on its experience to date and cooperate further with the governmental and business sectors.

#### *Increased support for Southeast Asia*

We will continue our supplementary support of the Cambodian training program for specialists in cultural heritage conservation, which is being carried out by the Royal University of Fine Arts with the backing of a UNESCO trust fund. In the interest of supporting researchers from the Asian countries that have been hit hardest by the social and economic crises beginning in 1997, we are paying special attention to managing our current programs as we seek to update them, particularly in Indonesia and Thailand. We will also increase the scope of our evaluations of work funded by International Grants, which we began in fiscal 1997. We will also be adding depth to our SEASREP activities, in part by expanding the network to Singapore and Vietnam.

#### *Reorganization of the Grant Program for Civil Society*

With the December 1998 implementation of the Law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities (the NPO Law), Japan's citizen activities advanced to a new level, and increased organization and specialization became the most important themes for the sector. With these developments in mind, I want the Toyota Foundation to consider more forward-thinking programs aimed at the sound development of citizen activities.

#### *Promoting the digitization of our database*

The Toyota Foundation Website, which was launched in October 1998, has been received very enthusiastically.

I believe we should work to bring even more content to the site, making it a forum for the publication of results of Foundation-sponsored research.

*Expanding and strengthening the Foundation's fiscal base*  
Despite the current economic conditions, with interest rates having been frozen at low levels for quite a while, the Foundation has been able to maintain its activities thanks to new infusions from the Toyota Motor Corp. (¥5 billion each in fiscal 1996, 1997, and 1998, for a total of ¥15 billion). The Foundation is grateful for this continued support. While continuing to strive for efficient management of the overall operations of the Foundation, we should also seek our sponsor's understanding of the need to further increase our endowment.

#### *Building human resources*

In order for the Foundation to be able to develop in the volatile environment in which it operates, we must devote more efforts to strengthening and enriching the human resources of the Foundation. I would like to see us develop a more flexible human-resources system so that we may secure a range of new talent.

## SEASREP

The Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) is being jointly sponsored by the Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Toyota Foundation. Applications for four subprograms were invited between December 1, 1998 and February 28, 1999, and total of 107 were received. A seven-member SEASREP selection committee consisting mainly of Southeast Asian researchers convened in Malacca, Malaysia on May 10 and 11 to review the applications. From the 107 applications, the committee recommended 41 as grant candidates. The allocation of grants was decided at the eighty-eighth meeting of the Board of Directors on June 18.

The criteria used in the selection process this year were set at a higher level than in the previous years, in part because the program is now in its fifth year. In the case of applications for continuing M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants for young researchers in Southeast Asian studies and Regional Collaboration Project Grants, interim reports and results from the previous year's work were also taken into account.

## Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program

Subprogram	Budget	No. of Applications	Total Amount Requested	Approved
Southeast Asian Language Training Grants (Code EL)	\$51,600 (47,500)	24 (23)	\$168,538 (144,046)	9/\$51,600 (12/\$69,700)
Visiting Professorship Grants (Code EV)	29,000 (29,000)	12 (4)	38,925 (11,200)	10/\$29,100 (4/\$11,600)
M.A./Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants in Southeast Asian Studies (Code EY)	34,000 (34,000)	33 (18)	181,466 (121,865)	9/\$33,900 (8/\$33,300)
Regional Collaboration Grants (Code EC)	190,000 (180,000)	38 (27)	951,786 (695,890)	13/\$175,600 (12/\$179,200)
Council-Initiated Project Grants	30,000 (30,000)	2 (2)	44,702 (30,000)	2/\$40,000 (2/\$30,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$334,600</b> <b>(320,500)</b>	<b>109</b> <b>(74)</b>	<b>1,385,417</b> <b>(1,003,001)</b>	<b>43/\$330,200</b> <b>(38/\$323,800)</b>

( ) indicates figures in 1998

As a result of this rigorous screening process, there was a significant increase in the number of applications for M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants that were not recommended. In addition, some funds were left over in the budget for Regional Collaboration Project Grants. As these results make clear, the emphasis has shifted toward the provision of grants for projects on a higher level. Some questions have been raised, however, including whether it is appropriate to apply uniform standards even to research in countries where the research environment is different, such as the Indochinese nations.

At the same meeting, the Board of Directors approved two applications for Council-Initiated Project Grants in addition to those in the four SEASREP subprograms. The approved projects are "The Traveling Classroom Program" and "The Presentation of Southeast Asia in Southeast Asian Pre-University Textbooks."

### Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

*Food Supplies and the Japanese Occupation in South-East Asia.* Paul H. Kratoska, ed. London: MacMillan, 1998. ISBN 0-333-68472-9. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998. ISBN 0-312-21504-5.

This volume contains nine papers on food supplies in Southeast Asia during the period of Japanese oc-

cupation, from 1941 to 1945, written by scholars from Southeast Asia, Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Prior to World War II, Southeast Asia was divided into regions already producing excess amounts of rice and exporting the surplus and those that depended on imports because the soil was not suitable for rice cultivation. Hence, transport played a vital role in supplying rice to the entire region. Drawing on primary sources from the period, which have begun to be released to the public in recent years, as well as fieldwork data, the papers in this collection make detailed analyses of the effects the Japanese military government's policies had in each region on the provision of food—especially rice—and on the lives of the people.

The situation differed greatly across the Southeast Asian regions spotlighted in the papers, but all authors agree that a grave food crisis was brought about by such factors as the military control of rice production, the requisition of rice for military use, the cutoff of rice transportation routes, and the confusion accompanying the use of military money to pay for administrative and other expenses.

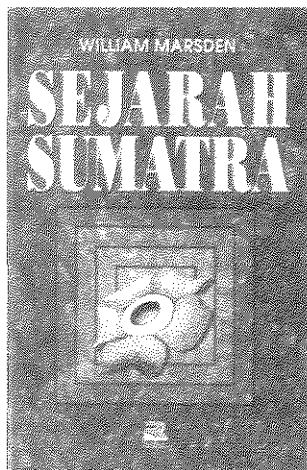
The papers in this volume are mainly based on presentations made during a session on food supplies at a symposium on Japan's occupation of Southeast Asia held in Singapore in December 1995. Research on this period has hitherto focused on the political and power structures of the occupation. Studies such as these, which inquire into the lives of people in the occupied societies, break new ground in this field.

More books are scheduled to follow based on the fruits of the 1995 symposium. These will adopt fresh perspectives in examining several themes, such as ethnic relationships under the scheme of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere.

*Sejarah Sumatra.* William Marsden. Jakarta: Penerbit Rosda Jayaputra, 1999. ISBN 979-514-824-9. In Indonesian.

This volume is a translation of the 1811 edition of *The History of Sumatra*, by William Marsden, published with a fiscal 1997 grant from the "Know Our Neigh-

bors" Translation-Publication Program. The original was first published in Britain in 1783 with the purpose of creating a lasting factual record of the author's observations during his sojourn in Sumatra



in the late eighteenth century, through an account of life as a Sumatran.

The word "Sumatran" tends to be taken to refer to a single ethnic group, but the island of Sumatra is actually home to various ethnicities, being the third largest landmass in Indonesia. This book describes various aspects of the island as they were in the late 1700s, including its variegated topography, minerals, natural resources,

flora and fauna, agricultural products, history, daily life, languages, customs, art, customary law, rites, and traditions. It also touches on the many ethnic groups inhabiting different areas of Sumatra—Lampung, Melayu, Minangkabau, Batak, Aceh, and the islets along the western coast.

This volume is expected to benefit Indonesian society not only as classic literature on Sumatra but also as a resource for learning more broadly about Sumatra.

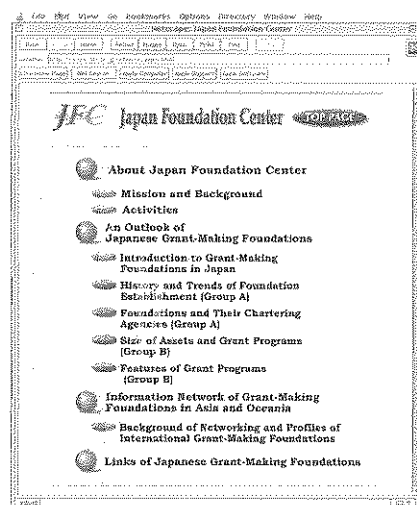
### Japan Foundation Center Opens New Website

On April 1, the Japan Foundation Center launched a new Website. In the guide to nongovernmental grants (Japanese only), viewers can conduct a search on a database containing overviews of over 800 grant-making foundations by foundation name, project type, or application period. In addition, records of the more than 7,000 recipients each year of grants provided by the JFC's 160 member foundations can be searched by theme, name of representative, or affiliation. From the resulting list, a summary of the grant program from which each grant was provided can also be viewed.

Sections introduced hereafter are also available in English. In the section on the state of grant-making

foundations in Japan, viewers can browse through the most recent statistics on Japanese foundations, including those concerning size of assets, undertakings, and trends in foundation size establishment. Links are also provided to the Website of approximately 170 grant-making foundations, which are listed in phonetic (alphabetical) order. The JFC's undertakings and publications are introduced in the "about the foundation" section.

At present, about 21,000 items or three years' worth of grant recipient records are available in the searchable section. A search by representative name quickly reveals cases in which the same project has



URL: <[http://www.jfc.or.jp/eibun/e\\_index.html](http://www.jfc.or.jp/eibun/e_index.html)>

received grants from several foundations in the three years. This Website is highly useful for researchers seeking grants, and also for the foundations when looking into researchers' past achievements and trends in research subjects.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes responses 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 163-0437, 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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