

# CULCON XX Joint Statement

May 10-11, 2001, Los Angeles

The US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), comprised of representatives from the Japanese and U.S. governments and from business, academe and other aspects of public life, convened for CULCON XX at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California on May 10-11, 2001.

The panelists expressed their deep appreciation to the Japanese American National Museum for hosting the plenary session.

CULCON XX was co-chaired by Dr. Richard J. Wood, President, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and Professor Nagayo Homma, Chancellor, Seijo Gakuen Schools and University.

The panelists expressed their appreciation to Dr. Wood and Prof. Homma for their leadership and efforts on behalf of CULCON. Both announced that they will be retiring as chairmen of CULCON.

Initiated by an agreement between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Ikeda in 1961, CULCON has served to focus official and public attention in both the United States and Japan on the vital cultural and educational underpinnings of the bilateral relationship.

The conference received congratulatory messages from President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi. Both messages noted the significance of choosing Los Angeles, and the Japanese American National Museum, in particular, as a meeting place. They both emphasized the increasing importance of CULCON activities to the bilateral relationship.

## **Educational Exchange**

The panelists reaffirmed their belief in the need to increase significantly the number of US undergraduate students studying in Japan, a CULCON priority since 1991, in order to build better understanding and closer relations between the two countries. The panelists noted the progress that has been made in this area over the past several years on both sides. They strongly encouraged the ongoing work of the many governmental, non-profit and private groups that have made much progress in this area. The panelists requested reports on further progress at CULCON XXI.

The US Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) reported on progress in an initiative to conduct research on education. MEXT proposed to study education for highly gifted students, particularly in mathematics and science, and the Department of Education expressed its willingness to facilitate such a study by Japanese researchers. The Department of Education suggested that US researchers might wish to focus on effective teaching strategies in mathematics in primary and middle schools in Japan.

## **Library Cooperation and Access to Information**

The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Association of National University Libraries (ANUL) presented a joint report on their pilot project to improve document delivery services and interlibrary loan (DDS/ILL) between the two countries.

MEXT noted its strong endorsement of this project and welcomed the successful completion of the pilot project.

The NCC also commented on considerable progress in several other areas, including accessibility to bibliographic and text databases and the provision of services to a broader constituency.

Both panels enthusiastically noted the progress in both countries in regard to the above issues among professionals in the field.

The CULCON panelists resolved to continue to encourage work on the full realization of global DDS/ILL and other library cooperation. The CULCON panelists emphasized cooperation and concrete results among the library communities. The panelists requested reports on further progress at CULCON XXI.

### **Art Exhibition**

The Japan Panel reported on two major concurrent exhibits of American art at the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, "A Brush with History" and "American Heroism," accompanied by cultural and educational programs. Both exhibits will run from August 6 to October 14, 2001. The panels endorsed the project at CULCON XIX and have been assisting in securing the loans of paintings for the exhibitions.

### **Digital Culture**

CULCON XIX had called for the establishment of a new working group to explore the feasibility of harnessing the power of the Internet and new Web-based multimedia technologies to its effort to improve educational and cultural relations between the two countries.

The resulting Digital Culture Working Group reported on progress it has made to establish an educational resource on the Internet on US-Japan relations over the past fifty years, with an emphasis on educational and cultural relations. It called for an archive of digitized materials with teaching aids, including text, sound, and visual elements, to be designed to show the mutual influences of Japanese and American societies and cultures on each other in this time period.

The panelists viewed a prototype of this Web-based resource entitled "Cross Currents" and applauded the work of the members of the CULCON Digital Culture Working Group and the project teams. They discussed many of its innovative features and then discussed the financial feasibility of developing the Web site to the full plan devised by the Working Group.

The panelists commented that the process of the development of the prototype itself was a binational collaboration worthy of note. The panelists also emphasized the potential for global impact of such a resource.

In further development they noted the need to develop curriculum, and most of all to enhance the content under the supervision of the academic experts, who would ensure the quality of the content to be included.

### **CULCON's Tasks and Policies**

The panelists discussed "CULCON's Tasks and Policies During the First Ten Years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." (attached).

The panelists discussed the impact of changing technologies on CULCON activities. They agreed to make an effort to use technology to facilitate better communication among themselves and the secretariats.

The panelists also recommended that CULCON endeavor to increase its visibility in the United States and Japan by organizing symposia, presenting opinions and proposals and by other appropriate means.

### **Future CULCON**

The panelists agreed to a proposal to schedule CULCON XXI in the fall, 2003 and CULCON XXII in the spring, 2006 so that the plenary session will no longer be held during a US inaugural year.

The panelists recognized the importance of developing human resources in the age of globalization and agreed to share information on youth exchange and education for international understanding through the secretariats.

The panelists also endorsed the further collaborative development of the Digital Culture Resource (DCR). They endorsed a proposal to continue the work of the Digital Culture Working Group with the understanding that its work would proceed incrementally as funding and staffing allow.

The Digital Culture Working Group will continue to monitor the management and content of the DCR.

The Panels requested that the Digital Culture Working Group report on progress in further development of the DCR at CULCON XXI.

The Panels agreed that CULCON XXI will be held in Japan in Fall, 2003.

**For more information, contact Pamela Fields, (202) 418-9800, or [culcon@jusfc.gov](mailto:culcon@jusfc.gov)**

# CULCON Panelists

## **US Panel:**

### **Chairman:**

Dr. Richard J. Wood  
President  
United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

### **Vice Chairman:**

Mr. Glen S. Fukushima  
President & CEO  
Cadence Design Systems, Japan

### **Members:**

Mr. Burnill F. Clark  
President & CEO  
KCTS TV, Seattle

Mr. Lawrence Ellison\*  
Chairman and CEO

Oracle Corporation  
Dr. Carol Gluck  
George Sansom Professor of Japanese History  
Columbia University

Mr. Jeffrey M. Lepon  
Managing Member  
Lepon McCarthy White & Holzworth, PLLC

Mr. Thomas E. McLain  
Partner  
Sidley Austin Brown & Wood

Mr. George H. Takei  
Actor/Writer

Mr. Ira Wolf  
Office of Senator Baucus

## **Ex-Officio Members:**

Dr. Helena Finn  
Acting Assistant Secretary of State for  
Educational and Cultural Affairs  
US Department of State

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education  
US Department of Education

Mr. James Kelly  
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
US Department of State

## **Japan Panel:**

### **Chairman:**

Professor Nagayo Homma  
Chancellor  
Seijo Gakuen Schools and University

### **Members:**

Dr. Sumiko Iwao  
Professor  
Musashi Institute of Technology

Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi\*  
Chairman and CEO  
Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.

Mr. Tetsuo Misumi\*  
Director General  
Nikaido Gakuen

Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi\*  
President and CEO  
Kikkoman Corporation

Mr. Toshiaki Ogasawara  
Chairman  
The Japan Times

Mr. Atsuyuki Sassa  
Former Director-General  
Cabinet Security Affairs Office

Prof. Yasuhiko Torii\*  
President  
Keio University

Prof. Masakazu Yamazaki\*  
Playwright/President  
University of East Asia

## **Ex-Officio Members**

Ambassador Masaki Konishi  
Senior Vice President  
The Japan Foundation

Mr. Tetsuhisa Shirakawa  
Director-General for International Affairs  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science  
and Technology

Mr. Jun Yokota  
Director-General  
Cultural Affairs Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

\*Unable to attend plenary session