

CULCON XIX Joint Statement

February 18-19, 1999 Okinawa, Japan

The U.S.-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 XIX at the Okinawa Convention Center in Okinawa, Japan on February 18-19, 1999.

CULCON XIX was co-chaired by Dr. Richard J. Wood, Dean, Yale Divinity School, and Professor Nagayo Homma, Chancellor, Seijo Gakuen Schools and University.

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 Clinton and Prime Minister Obuchi. Both messages noted the significance of choosing Okinawa as a meeting place. They each emphasized the increasing importance of CULCON activities to the bilateral relationship.

In conjunction with the plenary session, CULCON members held a symposium on February 17, 1999, entitled "National Identity and Cultural Interchange in the 21st Century" at the Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan City, Okinawa, with co-sponsorship by the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the International House of Japan. CULCON panel members served both as keynote presenters and discussants.

Undergraduate Educational Exchange

The panels renewed their firm belief in the need to increase significantly the number of U.S. undergraduate students studying in Japan, a CULCON priority since 1991, in order to build better understanding and closer relations between the two countries. The working group members noted the progress that has been made in this area over the past several years on both sides. They did, however, strongly encourage the ongoing work of the many government, non-profit and private groups that have made such progress in this area.

The working group reported on progress in educational exchange to the plenary session:

The Japan side reported on the development of special courses taught in English for semester- or year-long programs for exchange students at Japanese national universities. As of February, 1999, the number of Japanese national universities accepting international students into their English-language programs had risen to fourteen with additional universities preparing to begin such courses in the near future.

The Japan side also reported on the progress of its scholarship system, "Short-term Student Exchange Promotion Program." Under it, in Fiscal Year 1997, Japan provided financial support for 454 U.S. students.

The Japan side also presented a report regarding University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP). The sixth Reference Group meeting of UMAP was held in Bangkok in August, 1998. A charter was adopted and the decision was taken to locate the international secretariat in Japan. After the Bangkok meeting, UMAP prepared new guidelines for the establishment of the UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS), which will be adopted in some universities on a trial basis under

the guidelines. Through UMAP it is expected that exchange, especially short-term exchange, among colleges and universities in Asia and the Pacific will be promoted. CULCON hopes that this will have a positive effect on the number of American undergraduates studying in Japan.

The U.S. side reported on its progress. The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission has provided funds for a project called "The Bridging Project Clearinghouse," whose functions include providing detailed information on study in Japan programs and curriculum, as well as recruitment, counseling, other facilitative services and scholarships. This fulfills the mandate from the joint statement issued in December, 1993, by the CULCON Joint Working Group on Undergraduate Educational Exchange. The Bridging Project Clearinghouse is now in Year Two of operations within the Association of Teachers of Japanese (ATJ). The project is meant as a pump-priming effort to raise the visibility of Japan as a viable study abroad destination.

Also on the U.S. side, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and the U.S. Department of Education have provided funds for another U.S. initiative, the Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan. The goal of the project is to develop a corps of faculty members who are sensitized to Japan-related issues and can incorporate material about Japan into the curriculum, especially where full-fledged Japan studies and Japanese language programs are not available. Such faculty will encourage their students to further their study of Japan in country. The project is being carried out by the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), which is helping teams of faculty from eight colleges and universities undertake a year of directed study of Japan and develop courses that will ensure more widespread attention to Japan in the undergraduate curriculum.

The Department of Education, through its Fund for the Improvement for Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), is supporting a new initiative to develop and expand partnerships among Japanese and U.S. institutions of higher education to increase the flow of students to Japanese programs.

The U.S. side also reported on a campaign it has launched to raise funds to provide individual incentive scholarships of an average \$5,000 each to select U.S. undergraduates. These will offset some of the difference between a year of study at the home campus and a year of study in Japan. The U.S. side was particularly appreciative of the Japan side's support for its fundraising efforts, and especially for a dinner Ambassador Saito hosted in June, 1998 to highlight the need for such scholarships. The U.S. side has set a goal of raising \$2 million over the next three years and will fund its first round of scholarships in Fall, 1999.

Current Issues and Recommendations for the Future

Both sides applauded progress at the national universities and agreed to support the continued development of such courses taught in English. The panels recommended the opportunity for continued dialog among representatives from the various programs at Japanese national universities and U.S. faculty and administrators.

Both sides applauded progress in the many areas undertaken by the working group and agreed that CULCON offer continued strong support and encouragement to efforts aimed at increasing the number of undergraduate students studying in Japan.

The panels agreed to request the U.S. Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture to report on progress on this project at CULCON XX.

Both panels agreed that the work of the CULCON Educational Exchange Working Group is concluded. They disbanded the working group.

Access to Information and Libraries

The Information Access Working Group applauded the considerable progress in the seven items identified at CULCON XVIII and reported that the level of cooperation has dramatically increased among the libraries that convey, collect and disseminate electronic information in Japan and the United States. The concrete details of working group will be available on the CULCON homepage. The group had special praise for the cooperation among the National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources (NCC), National Center for Science Information Systems (NACSIS), the National Diet Library (NDL), the Association of National University Libraries (ANUL) in Japan, and others. The working group reported on a roundtable meeting held recently among these groups, with support from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, to discuss document delivery services. A pilot project will begin in July, 1999 to deliver documents electronically between Japan and the United States.

Both panels enthusiastically noted the progress on both sides with the above issues among professionals in the field.

The CULCON panelists resolved to continue to encourage and support work on information access on both sides. The CULCON panelists emphasized cooperation and concrete results among the library communities, in particular among the NCC, NACSIS and others. The CULCON panelists requested that the NCC and its Japanese counterparts report on further progress at CULCON XX.

Both panels agreed that the work of the CULCON Information Access Working Group is concluded. They disbanded the working group.

Future Topics

In 2001, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, will mount two major concurrent exhibits of American art, "Notable Americans" and "American Heroism," accompanied by cultural and educational programs. The works to be exhibited will be requested from the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, et al. The panels agreed that CULCON will endorse the project and assist the National Museum of Western Art in securing the loan of paintings for the Tokyo exhibition.

As a result of CULCON XVIII, the U.S. Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture reported that there will be a meeting between the two agencies to discuss a joint multi-year research project on educational reform. Depending on further collaboration between the two agencies, possible areas of discussion include such issues as the balance between creativity and basic knowledge and skills, cultivation of ethical behavior in children and use of new technology in education.

Both panels asked the two agencies to report on progress in the research at CULCON XX.

The panelists discussed several possible topics for their future consideration. Cultural Diplomacy and Public Conversations on Topics of Mutual Interest were both discussed. Another topic, proposed by the Japan panel, dealt with a study of mutual stereotyping or misperceptions of each other. The panels recognized the impact stereotypes have on the U.S.-Japan relationship.

The Japan side introduced the topic of education in the 21st century. This would explore development of the talents and potential of youth needed for cross-cultural communication in the 21st century.

Another topic, proposed by the U.S. panel, dealt with identifying digital resources on U.S.-Japan relations, with emphasis on culture and education, over the past fifty years. The panels agreed to form a working group on digital culture that will focus on the past, present and future of U.S.-Japan relations. The Digital Culture Working Group will report on its progress at CULCON XX.

Conclusion

The panels agreed that the symposium "National Identity and Cultural Interchange in the 21st Century" contributed to the success of the plenary session and raised the visibility of CULCON activities. They noted that the theme was appropriate to the venue of CULCON XIX, that is, of Okinawa. The panels agreed that the symposium format could serve as a useful tool in carrying out CULCON purposes and interests. The panels expressed their profound gratitude for the cooperation and hospitality extended to them by Governor Inamine and the people of Okinawa in helping to make the symposium and CULCON XIX a success.

The panels agreed that CULCON XX will be held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in Spring, 2001.

For more information, contact Pamela Fields, (202) 275-7712

CULCON Panelists

US Panel:

Chairman:

Dr. Richard J. Wood
Dean, Yale Divinity School

Vice Chairman:

Mr. Glen S. Fukushima
President
Arthur D. Little (Japan), Inc.

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

Mr. George H. Takei
Actor/Writer

Mr. Ira Wolf
IJ Associates

Ex-Officio Members:

The Honorable Penn Kemble
Acting Director, U.S. Information Agency

The Honorable Stanley Roth
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian & Pacific Affairs
|U.S. Department of State

The Honorable
David A. Longanecker
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

Japan Panel:

Chairman:

Professor Nagayo Homma
Chancellor
Seijo Gakuen Schools and University

Members:

Dr. Hiroshi Inose
Director-General
The National Center for Science Information Systems

Professor Sumiko Iwao
Professor of Social Psychology
Keio University

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

Ex-Officio Members:

Amb. Yoshihisa Ara
Senior Vice President
The Japan Foundation

Mr. Tomonori Kudo
Director-General
Science and International Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture

Mr. Yasukuni Enoki
Director-General
Cultural Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs