

Report of the NCC Chair Activities
Visiting NCC-Related Agencies and Organizations in Japan
May 22 – May 25, 2007

During my private trip to Japan, I managed a few days to conduct NCC-related business in Tokyo from May 22 through May 25, 2007. This is a brief summary of my meetings and I would be glad to provide more details or answer questions. Please see my itinerary at the end.

Overview

The meetings were focused on the recent Japan Foundation funding application changes, which will affect the NCC's activities and other Japan Foundation funded projects, such as the Japanese Studies Information Specialists Training (JSIST).

Japan Foundation, May 25

Ms. Masako Yamamoto, Director, General Coordination and the Americas Division, Japanese Studies and intellectual Exchange Department

JSIST

As advertised, two to three people from the US will be funded to participate in the JSIST program in December 2007. This time, the program will be focused on participants from Central and South America and the overall number of participants will total 10-11 people. Ms. Yamamoto stated that the JF expected participants from the US would inform or "educate" participants from Central and South America about the NCC and North American Japanese studies community activities. She also mentioned that the workshop with this format, for advanced Japanese studies regions such as North America and Europe, would likely end after this year. For these regions, she suggested that we create a separate training project. She cited that a project like the Tenri Workshop on Early Japanese prints would work well. The Tenri proposal is an ideal model for this type of training plan, which is organized, run, and funds are matched by Tenri University and other sources. The JF role is to fund participants travel expenses. The bottom line is that the JF is interested in funding a project that is organized and managed by a proposing institution. In short, JF would focus on "funding" but would not be involved in management and/or logistics.

Fund proposals

Ms. Yamamoto clearly indicated that the NCC activities are considered very important and they are highly appreciated. However, 16 years have passed since NCC's inception and it should be independent. The JF cannot support its operational costs any longer, which has included two Council meetings per year. The NCC needs to seek other funding sources. Many things have changed since 1991 and NCC cannot rely on one permanent funding source for its operation anymore. Going forward from this application, all funding requests must be tied to projects. Some important factors are:

- Indicate matching funds clearly. By the application deadline, it does not have to actually secure matching funds. However, clear indications of potential matching funds are necessary by indicating the potential funding sources that have been or will be contacted.
- Labor in-kind is not considered as matching funds, however, any type of matching funds is fine. Membership fees, one-time attendance fees, host institutional support, etc, are all examples.
- Although the JF will not fund the NCC's operational costs from FY 2008 (April 2008), the NCC can propose a Council meeting to discuss future operations as a project-related meeting because of the changed funding environment.
- All the past required categories such as communications, public relations, meetings, etc. are unneeded after FY 2007.
- Every expense needs to be linked to specific projects.
- Cross regional nature and sustainability will be considered favorably.
- A project can be a multi-year project although an application for funding must be submitted annually.
- Therefore, unlike in the past, a project proposal can include the NCC Executive Director's project managing personnel costs. However, this type of expense may be subject to scrutiny and careful review by the fund proposal reviewing board.
- In the application schedule distributed in April, the commencement of the funded new projects was begun in September 2008. This is just an example. If the NCC can start a funded project right after the announcement of successful grantees, it can be done. However, it will usually take 1 to 2 months to transfer the funds into the grantee's account.
- As it is indicated, any type of projects will be reviewed as one pool of projects. Since the NCC's performance is highly evaluated and nature of information/library is different from other disciplinary areas, she believes that a reviewing board will consider these factors for the NCC.

Incoming Japan Liaison & Image Use Protocol Task Force (IUPTF) member, May 23

Mr. Akio Yasue

I gained valuable input from Mr. Yasue regarding the project proposal, IUPTF ideas, and NDJ trainings. Mr. Yasue is very familiar with the JF situation and their new policies. He thinks that the Japanese librarianship oral history project is good but when we propose, he suggested that we tie this type of a project to the future and not just the past.

Mr. Yasue requested that we provide him with the situation in the U.S. regarding getting permission to use images. He would like to see the difference in practices between Japan and the US. He would like to pin point where the problems are.

He also suggested that we think about how Japan and the US could collaborate to preserve primary sources and what kind of role the NCC could play in this collaboration.

National Diet Library, May 24

Mr. Yoshitaka Ikuhara, Deputy Librarian

Ms Ikuko Tozawa, Counselor for Library Cooperation

Ms Miho Sekine, Assistant Director, Libraries and Cooperation Division

I thanked them for sending two representatives to the NCC Open Meeting in Boston, and for the recent creation of the online librarian's training. We then discussed three main issues: (1) The future of the Japanese Studies Information Specialists Training (JSIST), (2) NDL's presence at the Japanese studies event in North America and (3) collaboration between NDL and NII in regards to Japan's institutional repository.

JSIST

The JF financial environment to support future training seminars is strained because of the JF reorganization. Going forward, we need to come up with a different venue for training librarians in North America. NDL would like to continue a JSIST type of training, which benefits NDL staff as well. NDL can send their staff to North America if such a program exists. Conducting training at the NDL by NDL staff would not be a problem; however, having NDL arrange accommodations for participants and manage logistics appears to be difficult (so far the JF took care of this part). After this year's JSIST, we agreed to work collaboratively to create and propose such a training project to the JF.

NDL's presence

This October, UC Berkeley East Asian Library is planning to have an opening ceremony for their new EA Library and a symposium on the 100 years of history of East Asian Libraries in North America. Directors of major East Asian libraries will present a paper and VIPs are invited to the ceremony and symposium. In March, I learned that no representative from NDL had been decided (UC Berkeley did not get any replies from NDL at that time) versus the Chinese government that will send a large group of library directors, including the National Library of China. The Director of the National Library of Korea will also participate. On behalf of the UC Berkeley's Japanese studies collection and North American library community, I communicated the importance of the NDL's presence in a major event like this. After the meeting, on May 30, Mr. Ikuhara informed me that Mr. Ikuhara will represent NDL and deliver a keynote speech. New NDL Librarian, Dr. Nagao, will not be able to leave Japan while the Japanese Diet is in session in October.

Institutional Repository Collaboration between NDL and NII

Although expansion of institutional repository programs in Japan is welcoming news, searching and finding these full text resources are not yet seamless. NDL provides a digital portal site that can be used for some IR materials, while NII GeNii Portal provides searches for IR materials of national universities. I asked whether NDL and NII can collaborate to develop a one-stop portal site to search all such resources. Again on May 30, Mr. Ikuhara informed me that NDL requested NII to collaborate toward the development of such portal and NDL is now awaiting NII's reply.

Meeting with NDL staff

Ms. Miho Sekine

Mr. Nobuya Aihara

Mr. Masato Fujimaki

Ms. Sekine and Mr. Aihara were representatives at the NCC Open Meeting in Boston in March. They regarded information exchanges with overseas users very informative and wish to continue this type of activity. Although the NDL sends a representative every year, no follow-up is done after they return. These young librarians wish to establish a permanent liaison between NDL and NCC. They were wondering if the NCC could express our interest in such a liaison position. I promised that we would consider this request.

National Art Center, May 25

Mr. Shoichi Hirai, Curator

Mr. Takeshi Mizutani, Librarian, Art Library, National Museum of Modern Art

Ms. Mariko Shiratori, Research Associate, Art Library

Accompanied by Ms. Izumi Koide, IUPTF member, Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Museum Resource Center Director

JAC & JACII

I thanked them for their efforts on the JAC project and explained the status of the JAC II project. Although the NCC hired a new assistant to manage the JAC II project, I explained the difficulty for museums in the U.S. to donate their catalogs. I learned that for JAC program, NAC asks Japanese museums to donate 3 copies of their catalogs: one for use, one for a preservation copy, and the third copy to be sent to Freer as JAC. Due to a museum budget situation, even in Japan it is getting difficult to obtain the 3rd copy. So they understand our challenge to collect, however, in the spirit of “international exchange” program, they would like to get as many catalogs as NCC can collect.

Image Use Protocol (IUP)

Izumi and I took this opportunity to ask questions regarding the Museum’s protocol for image use in scholarly publications. Izumi will also report on this at the IUP TF meeting. The gist is that this type of information is very useful for Japanese scholars and students as well. Because of the highly hierarchical structure of Japanese museums, if the NCC wants Japanese museums to take on this issue, a high ranking curator/board member needs to be asked to address the issue at a museum conference and meetings such as the Japanese Council of Art Museums, which meets every May. We asked Mr. Hirai to bring this issue to his colleagues and share information with us.

Japan Publications Trading Company (JPTC) May 24

Mr. Toshio Ohno, Director

Mr. T. Suzuki

I met a new director, Mr. Ohno, who has succeeded Mr. Hirano and thanked them for their cooperation on the MVS project and Re-Use plan support.

Re-Use Plan

I asked them to share their experience with the Resource Re-Use Plan Feasibility Study. Before my trip, I was informed by Prof. Tutiya that JANUL postponed their evaluation until its October Meeting because the books have not yet arrived at a requesting institution. JANUL wants to know the NCC's evaluation in September before their meeting.

JPT feels that the University of Tokyo staff worked very hard to prepare the books. When these books were sent to them, a slip of a requester (one row from the Excel print out) was inserted in each book and books were bundled based on the destination. Their handling charge in amount of ¥3,000 this time does not include a profit margin and does not reflect the actual costs. If they consider their need to break-even and cover their personnel expenses on the project, they feel that the charge would be set at around ¥5,000 to ¥6,000 per carton. Also, they could only handle the volumes of this level (1,000 volumes) and they cannot accommodate multiple donor institutions. They would like to receive the NCC's final report on this project.

International House of Japan (I-House) Library, May 23.

Ms. Rie Hayashi, Librarian

I met a new librarian for the I-House Library. She has been on the job for about 7 months. She is still analyzing what kind of services that I-House Library can offer from now on. The present services cannot continue due to their budget and changing environment of Japanese studies research. She says that she knows the research environment in Europe but is not yet familiar with North America. She welcomes any comments, input and requests from users in North America. I asked her to attend CEAL/AAS in Atlanta next year and she will consider it.

Japan Foundation Library, May 25

Ms. Junko Kurita, Library Director

I visited the JF Library for the first time since a major renovation and was quite impressed with the changes. For example, they converted old KBS 16 mm film into DVDs and now offer viewing equipment and space. They also digitized most of the "Kokusai Kōryū" journal issues and articles can be searched and retrieved onsite. I strongly urged them to post these on the Internet so that users can utilize more. They said that as soon as copyrights are cleared, they are considering to do so. The JF Library has really transformed from a library offering English books to a gathering place for Japanese studies people. The setting is designed as a common gathering/learning concept.

Business Trip To Japan
May 22 – May 25, 2007

May 22, 2007

From Shimada (Shizuoka) to Tokyo

May 23, 2007

10:00 2:00 pm Meeting with Mr. Akio Yasue, incoming Japan Liaison

4:00 pm Meeting with Dr. Kris Troost (Duke & former NCC Chair) & Ms. Rie Hayashi, Librarian, I-House

May 24, 2007

10:00 am Mr. Suzuki, Ms. Koike, Japan Publications Trading Company

2:00 pm Mr. Ikuhara, Deputy Librarian, National Diet Library, Ms. Ikuko Tozawa, International Cooperation

3:30 pm Ms. Miho Sekine, Mr. Aihara, Mr. Masato Fujimaki, NDL

May 25, 2007

10:00 am Mr. Shoichi Hirai, Curator, Mr. Mizutani, Ms. Mario Shiratori, The National Art Center (accompanied by Ms. Izumi Koide)

12:00 pm Lunch meeting with Ms. Izumi Koide, IUP task force member, Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Museum

3:00 pm Ms. Masako Yamamoto, Japan Foundation

4:30 pm Ms. Junko Kurita, Librarian, Japan Foundation Library