

Japan-Korea node Activities in 2006

In 2006, the Japan-Korea node supported three projects at the University of Queensland, ANU and Monash University. The node advertised through different email lists about its activities and inviting applications for small projects related to Japan and Korea, but response has been rather limited.

As convenor of the Node, I am organising a meeting of the steering committee in April 2007 in Sydney to discuss our activities in 2007 and beyond.

Projects funded in 2006

1. Performance and Text: Gender Identities in the East and Southeast Asian Context – Contribution towards airfares and accommodation for guest speaker at the conference (Barbara Hartley – University of Queensland).

This project explored the links between gendered social experiences and attitudes and artistic expression in East and Southeast Asian cultures—specifically in the performing arts and literature of China, Japan and Indonesia. The project was funded by the ARC APFN. The project members asked the Japan-Korea node for some additional money to bring a high-profile speaker on Japan. The node supported Professor Jennifer Robertson from the University of Michigan as a keynote speaker to the conference. Professor Robertson is the world authority (in English language scholarship) on gender and performance in modern Japan.

2. Workshop on the NARA treaty between Australia and Japan for the Australian Institute of International Affairs and the AJRC – Assistance with costs (Trevor Wilson – Australian National University).

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Basic Treaty between Australia and Japan, the Australia-Japan Research Centre at the ANU organised a one-day symposium. Part of the cost was supported by the Japan-Korea node. Around 40 people attended, including senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and from the Japanese Embassy in Canberra who are currently involved in Australia-Japan relations. In accordance with the objectives of the ARC APFN Japan/Korea node, student and young researchers were invited from the ANU, ADFA and the University of Canberra, but only a small number of students and young researchers from the ANU attended. Some of the papers presented at the workshop were subsequently published as a special issue of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* in December 2006.

3. Japan Relates: Australia, Asia and the world – Funding for early career researchers and postgraduate students (Alison Tokita – Monash University).

The aim of this project was to develop collaborative research between Monash University, Tokyo University, and Seoul National University, in the area of media and popular cultural flows in Asia; and to discuss a three-way postgraduate teaching program between these universities in the area of media and communications, using tele-conferencing.

The Japan-Korea node provided money towards accommodation of the two speakers from Korea and Japan and registration fee for three postgraduate students.

Mission for 2007

We hope to fund 4-5 projects in 2007. The node would especially like to see some Korea-related projects in 2007. To that end the node is contacting key Korean scholars in Australia and the Korean Studies Association of Australia for dissemination of information.