

The contacts between Finnish scientific and cultural organisations and Japan

Presentation and summary

The Finnish Institute in Japan
December 2001
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Introduction

The report you are holding in your hand is the result of a survey, conducted by the Finnish Institute in Japan in December 2001. The report describes the contacts the major Finnish scientific and cultural organisations have in Japan, as well as the possible requests that these organisations may have in regard to the activities of The Finnish Institute in Japan. The first report was made in 1998.

The results are encouraging; there is a lot of co-operation between Finland and Japan in the fields of culture and sciences. In four years, the amount of co-operation has increased and the quality deepened. In general, when co-operation once has started, it has worked out well. Through the survey, the institute also received useful directions for up-coming activities. A large amount of the organisations that took part in the inquiry had not had previous co-operation with The Finnish Institute in Japan. However, the organisations that had, were content with the common achievements. A future challenge was also discovered: many participators wished to receive more information about the activities of The Finnish Institute in Japan. In addition, there were many suggestions for future activities to be found from the replies.

Thank you for participating!

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Introduction

The Finnish Institute in Japan

The Finnish Institute in Japan was founded in 1998. The founding members work in the fields of education, science and culture as well as in industry, trade and business.

The Finnish Institute in Japan represents Finnish culture, science, higher education, technical and financial expertise in Japan and develops co-operation in these fields with Japanese counterparts. The institute receives support from a large number of Finnish universities, companies, research funds and associations. The founding members were 33, a number that reflects the importance of the first Finnish science- and cultural institute in Southeast Asia. Since then, the number has risen to 39.

Dr. Jukka Viitanen was the first director of the Finnish Institute in Japan. His work is now proceeded by Dr. Katja Valaskivi.

The background of the inquiry

In the founding of the institute, there was a request from the Ministry of Education that the institute should conduct a survey on the co-operation projects between Finland and Japan. The aim was mainly to map the connections between the founding members and Japan. The questionnaires were therefore sent mainly to the founding members but also to various representatives in the fields of art, literature and music. The survey was conducted by sending out questionnaires by mail, as well as forms on the Internet. The percentage of the replies was 83 % in 1998.

After the founding of the institute, the bonds between Finland and Japan have improved remarkably. To be able to record these improvements, there was a need for a second survey. The report made by Annika Lindroos in 1998 was modified and served as a model for the new survey.

The new survey was sent to the public sector and to cultural organisations. Business companies were not included in the survey. Thus, the questionnaires were sent to universities, to a large number of science and art associations and to the institute's founding members.

Realisation of the survey and the interpretation of the replies

The survey was sent by e-mail. In November 16th 2001, e-mails with attached questionnaires were mailed to about 160 recipients. There is no way of knowing the exact number of recipients, as the same questionnaire was sent to two or more persons at the same university or organisation. These persons then forwarded the questionnaire inside their organisation. The inquiry was also sent to i.e. *Asia-net*'s mailing list, which includes all Finnish universities, polytechnics and a large number of associations and individuals.

The recipients were instructed to fill out the attached questionnaire and return it by e-mail. If the fixed answers did not feel correct, the recipients were free to describe the co-operation in their own words. A part of the recipients did indeed use this alternative. A part of the recipients returned their questionnaires by post mail.

In December 28th 2002, there were 127 returned questionnaires, a number that can be seen as a good result. Due to the conduction of the survey, a valid percentage of replies can not be verified. However, the estimated percentage of participation is about 60%-70%. It should be noted that many of the recipients did not have any relations to Japan, of which they informed the conductor of the survey.

The conduction of the survey may be problematic in other terms than just counting the number of the recipients. Some recipients did fill out the questionnaires but forgot to confirm the reply before submitting it. Thus, some questionnaires were empty when received by the conductor of the survey. In these cases, the respondents were requested to refill the forms, however not all did.

Nevertheless, the number of the replies can be considered as representative. Thus, it is possible to document important guidelines for collaboration between the institute's interest groups and Japan, as well as the role of the institute as a supporter of that collaboration.

Next, the research material will be presented in categories. In the interpretation of the material, only the most obvious results will be presented, as was the case in 1998. All replies are printed in the actual report. Only a list of respondents is presented in this synopsis. The report in its whole can be obtained in electronic form from the institute: office@finstitute.gr.jp and is also later to be available on the institute's homepage: www.finststitute.gr.jp. On behalf of the respondents who replied in own words, the conductor of this survey has interpreted the answers and placed them at suitable fixed answers in the questionnaire.

In general, information received by e-mail is printed as such in the report. Replies via e-mail have only been modified in those cases when there are obvious spelling errors and personal remarks in subjects not linked to the survey.

The linguistic forms of the replies have however not been changed. All replies in English and Swedish have been included as such.

Summary of general lines

Polytechnics

Forms of collaboration

The main forms of collaboration with Japan are:

- ✕ Exchange of personnel and students
- ✕ Trainee exchange
- ✕ Exchange of experts and participation in conferences
- ✕ Teaching material projects
- ✕ Collaboration in development of information and media technology systems

Forms of agreement

The polytechnics' collaboration with Japan seemed mostly to be of unofficial nature. However, some official agreements have been made and there is hope of more similar collaboration.

Regularity of collaboration

The most regular form of collaboration with Japan among polytechnics is keeping in touch through e-mails as well as meetings at conferences. There is a specific request to make the exchange of students more active in the future.

Impressions of collaboration

In the response from the polytechnics, there is a feeling of inequality concerning the communication between Finland and Japan. There is more communication from Finland to Japan than vice versa. One of the main problems is identified as the poor knowledge of the Finnish polytechnic system in Japan.

Plans for the future

There is a wish to widen the collaboration along the present line. The exchange of students and personnel will be developed and changed into collaboration on a more regular basis. The goal is to develop the polytechnic education within a Finnish national collaboration network with Southeast Asia.

Collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Japan and requests for future contacts

Except two very active Finnish polytechnics, there is not much collaboration between polytechnics and The Finnish Institute in Japan. The polytechnics would like the institute to help making the polytechnic educational system better known in Japan. Moreover, there is a request for the institute to get together counterparts interested in collaboration. The view is also that the institute could assist in the future when the polytechnics are expected to emphasise research- and development activities. The institute is also sought as a mediator for new contacts to Japan. There is a need for information about the Finnish Institute in Japan and its activities.

Cities

Two of six cities that received the inquiry replied.

Forms of collaboration

- ✕ Seminars
- ✕ Collaboration in increasing visits by Japanese tourists in Finland
- ✕ Exhibitions and theatre plays
- ✕ Japanese state getting acquainted with the city administration and education

Forms of agreement

There are agreements between cities but a part is still unofficial. The city of Helsinki has got a year agreement with the Japan Tourist Board.

Regularity of collaboration

The agreements between cities are regular or work according to the period of time agreed upon. It appears the collaboration is of project nature and formed according to needs.

Impressions of collaboration

The cities are generally content with the collaboration and consider it as equal.

Plans for the future

Most of all, the cities want to keep the contacts already existing but also expand the collaboration in the future. Information activities are planned to continue.

Collaboration with the Finnish Institute and requests for future contacts

The city of Helsinki has had some contacts with the Finnish Institute in Japan. Especially the expert programmes are seen as successful. The cities want more information about the activities of the institute. In their view, the Finnish Institute in Japan could assist the cities with i.e. publicity, information distribution about local authorities and in promoting the exchange of experts. Also the institute could assist by suggesting new forms of collaboration and in mapping the possibilities of financial opportunities.

Art associations, museums, foundations etc

This category includes various museums, art associations and one private research project.

Forms of collaboration

Among the most important forms of collaboration are:

- ✕ Exchange of exhibitions
- ✕ Visits by artists
- ✕ Sale and transfer of publication rights to Japanese publishers
- ✕ Mapping of and distributing information about work opportunities for artists
- ✕ Individual research projects

Forms of agreement

The majority of the collaborations were unofficial and based on personal contacts. The most fruitful collaborations are obviously based on people's personal qualities and on existing contacts to Japan. Some of the respondents, for example one museum, had agreements as their framework of collaboration.

Regularity of collaboration

The collaboration activities of art associations, as well as museums, were mostly unofficial. The activities were mainly projects and formed according to needs. There is a wish for more regular collaboration. However, there are financial barriers.

Impression of collaboration

In general, the forms of collaboration are seen as successful. However, there is a sense of inequality in the collaborations. In some cases, the more active counterpart was Japan, in other cases it was Finland. Because of the cultural differences, it was occasionally difficult to create contacts.

Plans for the future

The plans for the future were not very clear among this group. There is a wish to continue the contacts already existing but there is a lack of financial resources. There also seems to be an uncertainty about the collaboration partners. The forms of collaboration are of project nature.

Collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Japan and requests for future contacts

The majority of the museums and art associations that took part in the survey were not in collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Japan. Especially these parties wanted assistance in establishing future contacts. The institute was regarded as a creator of new relations to Japan. There was a wish for the institute to be a mediator in making such contacts. Also, possible financial aid in arranging specific exhibitions was requested. The institute is regarded as someone who could help in making Finnish art and museums better known in Japan. The parties that had already had collaboration with the institute were very content with the outcome.

Industrial organisations, research foundations and independent research facilities

Some industrial organisations, research foundations and independent research facilities also replied to the survey.

Forms of collaboration

- ✕ Meetings and discussions on a specialist and expert level
- ✕ Media campaigns
- ✕ Access to information, exchange of information
- ✕ Mobility of researchers
- ✕ Collaboration in research and development

Forms of agreement

It is notable that a majority of the collaborations have agreements. This is logical since the research foundations and the co-ordinators are of high level.

Regularity of collaboration

The collaboration is both regular and irregular. A part of the activities are of project nature. The collaboration is formed according to needs.

Impressions of collaboration

The impression is that the collaborations are successful and rich in content. Some organisations said they had not been very active recently due to the current situation of the Japanese economy.

Plans for the future

The collaboration will continue for example because Japan is globally one of the leading countries in technology. There will be an effort in increasing the collaboration as well as improving its quality.

Collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Japan and requests for the future

The parties had not, except for one case, been in contact with the Finnish Institute in Japan. Information about its activities has not been very widely spread among this target group. As a result, there were requests that the institute would send information about itself.

Universities

The most visible and the largest part of the respondents represented Finnish universities. The inquiry was sent to two people responsible for international affairs at every university. They, in turn, were requested to forward the inquiry to departments and institutions.

The replies of the universities were very similar. Some universities and some persons responsible for international affairs, as well as a number of departments replied very thoroughly. It is to be expected that universities have a great deal more contacts to Japan than was identified in the inquiry.

Forms of collaboration

- ☒ Exchange of students
- ☒ Exchange of researchers
- ☒ Exchange of research results
- ☒ Common research projects with common releases
- ☒ Participation in congresses

Forms of agreement

Finnish universities have many forms of collaboration with Japanese universities. The exchange of students occurs within the framework of exchange agreements. Some parties have made agreements for exchange of researchers.

Researchers through private contacts and individual qualities make the most fruitful collaboration.

Regularity of collaboration

This question was not always replied in the inquiry. Those who did answer indicated collaboration on an irregular basis. Contact via e-mail was frequent and some had an ongoing project with Japanese counterparts.

Impression of collaboration

The collaboration is seen as successful although not always equal. The high costs of living in Japan are somewhat discouraging for Finnish students. The same obstacle faces researchers going to Japan.

Plans for the future

There will be efforts to continue and deepen the collaboration. In doing so, the financial question is of great importance.

Collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Japan and requests for the future

According to the response, there is little knowledge of the Finnish Institute in Japan and its activities among the universities. The respondents had in most cases never consulted the institute. Some universities evaluated the importance of the institute as weak in terms of scientific contacts to Japan. Moreover, more activity in the field of i.e. arranging conferences was requested. The institute was believed to be able to assist in raising funds and in the practical arrangements of i.e. visits of researchers.

Respondent organisations and individuals

Polytechnics

Häme Polytechnic
Laurea Polytechnic
Mikkeli Polytechnic, YTI-research Centre
Pirkanmaa Polytechnic
Vaasa Polytechnic
Seinäjoki Polytechnic
Turku Polytechnic
Arts Academy/Design and Restoration
Health care and social services

Cities

City of Helsinki
Helsinki City Office
City of Helsinki Tourist and Convention Bureau
Helsinki City Planning Department
Helsinki City Art Museum
City of Tampere

Art associations, museums, other associations

Dr. Marja Sarvimäki
The Finnish Film Archive
Hämeenlinna Art Museum
Helsinki Festival
Finnish Kendo Association
The Finnish Library Association
The Craftmuseum of Finland
The Lenin museum
Finnish Music Information Centre
The Helinä Rautavaara Museum
The Sámi Museum SIIDA
The Finnish Amateur Musicians' Association
Society of Finnish Composers
Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation
National Board of Education
South-Carelia Art Museum
The Finnish Institute for Children's Literature
Lutheran Evangelical Association in Finland
Lahti Symphony Orchestra

Industrial organisations, research funds and research institutes

Research Institute of the Finnish Economy

Chief researcher Kotilainen

Mr. Pekka Sulamaa

Finpro

Mr. Kivikoski

President Kaskeala

Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers

The National Technology Agency

VTT Technical Research Centre

National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Academy of Finland

Ministry of Education

The Centre for International Mobility

National Public Health Institute

Department of Microbiology

Department of Molecular Medicine

Universities

University of Helsinki

Research and International Services

Mr. Pekka Martikainen, Population Research Unit

University of Joensuu

International Relations Co-ordinator Sari Parkkinen

Department of Economics

Department of Mathematics

Department of Geography

Finnish Network for Tourism Studies

Department of Physics

Mr. Jääskeläinen

Mr. Silvennoinen

Department of Computer Science

University of Jyväskylä

International Office

Department of Physical Education

Department of Biology of Physical Activity

Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy

University of Kuopio

Department of Ecology and Environmental Science
Associate Professor Jorma Penttinen
Professor Jari Vuori
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

University of Lapland

International Office
Textile and Clothing Unit
Professor of Industrial Design Kamunen

Lappeenranta University of Technology

International Office

University of Oulu

Department of Neurology
Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Laboratory
Department of History
Japanese Studies
Botanical Gardens of the University of Oulu

Sibelius Academy**Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration****University of Art and Design Helsinki****Theatre Academy**

International co-ordinator

Tampere University of Technology

International Office
Institute of Hydraulics and Automation
Pori School of Technology and Economics and Business Administration

University of Tampere

Tampere Peace Research Institute
Executive Secretary Unto Vesa
Department of Computer and Information Sciences
Department of Teacher Education
Department of Social Policy and Social Work
Department of Nursing Science
Department of Local Government Studies
Department of Folk Traditions
Dr. Simo Puntanen
Business Research Centre
International School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences

Helsinki University of Technology

HUT Library

Co-ordinator Sinkkonen

Professor of Information theory Patric Östergård

Ms. Hilikka Lehtonen, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies

Professor Antti Korhonen

HUT Lightning Laboratory

Low Temperature Laboratory

Automation Technology Laboratory/Institute of Intelligent Mobile Machines and Robots

The Neutral Networks Research Centre

Department of Architecture

History of Architecture

Laboratory of Bioprocess Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Neutral Networks Research Centre

Department of Electrical and Communications Engineering

Power Electronics Laboratory

Ship Laboratory

Laboratory of Acoustics and Audio Signal Processing

Professor Jukka Seppälä

Technical Physics – Advanced Energy Systems

Turku School of Economics and Business Administration

International Business

University of Turku

International Office

University of Turku Language Centre

Department of Musicology

Dr. Helmi Järviluoma

Department of Teacher Education in Rauma

Department Finnish and General Linguistics

Department of English

Department of Physics

Department of Sociology

Department of Physics

Laboratory of Theoretical Physics

Department of Ophthalmology

Professor Matti Saari

Laboratory Electron Microscopy

Institute of Dentistry University of Turku

Department of Anatomy

Subartic Research Institute Kevo

Turku University Central Hospital
Department of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine and
Positron Emission Tomography
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