From Japanese High School Students Who Participated in an Exchange Program for Youth

◆ My host family was very cheerful, and my host mother embraced me when I first met. On the way to their home, she talked me on the head and told me kindly, “I have been looking forward to meeting you for a long time.” This made me feel ashamed of the bit of uneasiness I had felt up until then, and I began to cry at her warm words.

◆ When I look back on it now, I think that I had a biased view of China. I was deeply impressed that even though we may live in completely different places, we have the same feelings and kindness. The prejudices that have formed between our two countries seemed to be a wall we built up by ourselves based on incomplete information; a wall that seemed thick but was actually quite thin.

From a Chinese Participant in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET)

In addition to my work as a teacher of the Chinese language, I attend the Tea Ceremony Club and the Flower Arrangement Club at a high school. I think that through the refined manners of the tea ceremony, we can find both the sense of taking care of our companions and tactility. In addition to the rules of the tea ceremony, the phrase ichigokashi, which means that each time we attend a tea ceremony we should cherish the opportunity as a unique experience that will come only once in our life, so we should show utter sincerity to our companions. I think that true communication can take place when we meet in the spirit of ichigokashi. After I return to China, I plan to involve myself in Japanese language education. While teaching the Japanese language, I hope to introduce my students to Japanese culture such as tea ceremony and flower arrangement.

Web Sites of Related Organizations

Embassy and Consulates-General of Japan

Embassy of Japan in China
http://www.jepantojapan.go.jp/index_e.html
Consulate-General of Japan in Guangzhou
http://www.guangzhou peru jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepant jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepanto jepano
A New Age of Japan-China Relations

The relationship between Japan and China is one of the most important bilateral relationships for both countries concerned. As key world powers, the two countries are in a position of responsibility with regard to the peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and of the world at large. It is extremely important for the Asia-Pacific region and the whole international community that Japan and China strengthen their cooperation in a variety of fields. Based on this recognition, Japan and China share the view that the two countries should fully develop mutually beneficial cooperation for the future at various levels, - bilateral, regional and international - that will make a positive contribution to the two countries, Asia and the world, while recognizing differences in their respective views and standpoints. The governments of the two countries refer to this cooperation as a “mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests” and are making various efforts to actualize it.

Promoting Mutual Trust in the Political Realm

The enhancement of mutual trust in the political and security realm is a prerequisite for Japan and China to pursue cooperation in many areas and to maintain good relations. In 2008, President Hu Jintao made the first visit to Japan by a Chinese president in ten years. This marked the beginning of a total of five reciprocal visits by Japanese and Chinese leaders, in which they exchanged views not only on the direction of Japan-China bilateral relations but also on the direction of the concrete cooperation between the two countries aimed at building a “mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests” in the light of various problems in the region and the world.

Cooperation in the Asia and the World

With the rapid progress of globalization, global issues are becoming the common agenda of all countries. As leading nations in Asia and the world, Japan and China are expected to cooperate towards common objectives. Japan and China are responsible for contributing to the peace and prosperity of Asia and the world.

Cooperation among Japan, China and ROK

The first intergovernmental meeting among Japan, China and ROK was held in Fukuoka, Japan. Relations between the three nations, which are geographic neighbors and share deep historic bonds, as well as together account for almost one-third of the world’s economy, have made great progress in recent years. (December 2008)

Climate Change and Energy Conservation

Issues including climate change and energy conservation were discussed at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. (July 2008)

Financial Crisis

The leaders of the G20 nations, including Japan and China, gathered in summit meetings on financial markets and the global economy to reinforce their commitment to strengthening international cooperation. (November 2008)

Japan’s Pursuit of the Path of a Peaceful Country

Japan made a remarkable recovery from the devastation of the Second World War to become the world’s second largest economy, but the progress in the sixty years since the end of the war is grounded on deep regret for the enormous damage and suffering Japan inflicted upon the people of Asian countries. This sense of regret is shared by the Japanese people of the past sixty years and will remain unchanged in future. With regard to this point, the “Joint Statement between the Governments of Japan and the People’s Republic of China on Comprehensive Promotion of a ‘Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests’” issued on the occasion of the visit to Japan by President Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China, states: “The Chinese side expressed its positive evaluation of Japan’s consistent pursuit of the path of a peaceful country and Japan’s contribution to the peace and stability of the world through peaceful means over more than sixty years since World War II.”
Mutual Benefit

The economic relationship between Japan and China has continued to make substantial progress, particularly since China joined the WTO. Trade between Japan and China totaled $27.8 trillion ($266.4 billion) in 2008, exceeding Japan-U.S. trade for two successive years. In addition, problems associated with China’s economic development, such as environmental and energy issues, are areas where Japan and China can cooperate. Although there are several issues relating to trade and investment, etc., that remain unresolved between Japan and China, the two countries can be regarded as mutually dependent and inseparable in the field of the economy.

Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue

In Japan-Chinese high-level economic dialogues, cabinet ministers from the two countries exchange views on issues related to macroeconomics, investment, and trade as well as the environment and energy. (Cabinet dialogue, December 2007)

Cooperation in the East China Sea

Japan and China face each other across the East China Sea, but the maritime boundary in the East China Sea has not yet been delineated. Many consultations have been held between the two countries with regard to the East China Sea issues, and the development of natural resources in the East China Sea. In 2008, as a first step toward realizing the common understanding between the two countries’ leaders of making the East China Sea a “Sea of Peace, Cooperation and Friendship.” Japan and China reached agreement that the two countries cooperate with each other without prejudice to the legal position of both countries during the transitional period pending agreement on the delimitation. It is important to move forward steadily with this cooperation project symbolizing the two countries’ “mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests.”

Japan-China Statistics

- Number of Japanese Residents in China: Approx. 128,000
- Number of Chinese Residents in Japan: Approx. 607,000
- Amount of Trade: $124.1 billion (2008: January-December)
- Air Links: 29 round-trip flights each week (Japan: 18, China: 22)
- Regularly scheduled passenger flights this week: 338, total: 635

People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges

The Japanese and Chinese governments consider it essential for promoting a “mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests” that the people of both countries try to understand each other and that mutual understanding and trust be deepened throughout broad areas of society, and they encourage people-to-people and cultural exchange programs in a variety of frameworks.

Youth Exchanges

The governments of Japan and China are promoting an annual youth exchange program that will involve 4,000 participants annually for four years starting in 2008.

Cultural Exchange

The year 2007 was designated “Japan-China Cultural and Sports Exchange Year,” and a large number of related events took place in both Japan and China.

Media Exchanges

A deep understanding of each other’s culture and society is necessary for strengthening the friendship and mutual exchange between Japan and China, and mutual exchanges between media representatives of the two countries are increasing steadily every year.

Performance of traditional Japanese papel máscara at “The Japan-China Festival in Beijing and Wuqingfang”, Beijing, (September 2007)

Media representations from Japan and China exchanged their views at the 4th Tokyo-Beijing Forum. (September 2008)

The Japanese government invites journalists from China and provides opportunities for them to gather news to increase understanding of Japan. Here a team from Beijing Television visits an agricultural testing facility. (October 2008)
Face-to-Face Exchanges
Direct contacts between Japanese and Chinese people help to forge even stronger ties between Japan and China.

Environmental Protection
The Japan-China Committee on Non-governmental Cooperative Afforestation provides help for the afforestation projects of private Japanese organizations in China. The photo shows Japanese volunteers involved in afforestation work in Changchun County, Jilin Province.

Post-Quake Reconstruction
After the Sichuan earthquake in May 2008, the government of Japan provided substantial emergency rescue aid and assistance. The Japan Disaster Reconnaissance Japan, which was the first aid mission to read Japan in earthquake reconstruction projects, visited the Wuhan government group. Around 5000 Japanese experts, knowledge, and technical experts in post-quake reconstruction and helping the China Post-Quake Reconstruction Overseas Teams to visit Japan.

Fighting Infectious Diseases
Access of emergency aid specialists was dispatched from Japan during the SARS epidemic. The photo shows a lecture delivered by Chinese doctors to Japanese researchers at the Japan-China Friendship Hospital in Beijing.

Technical Guidance (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers)
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (primary teachers) worked at Hebei People's Hospital, Hebei, Hebei Autonomous Region.

Cultural Exchange
Japanese primary and junior high school students visited Peking University, and received instruction from a Chinese calligrapher.

Infrastructure Support
A primary school was built in Tongren County, Guizhou Province, using the Foreign Aid Grant. Students, including those from the local ethnic minority, celebrated the completion of the new school building.

Introducing Japan and Promoting Study of the Japanese Language
The Japan Foundation operates centers for "face-to-face exchanges" in provincial towns throughout China, where visitors can experience Japanese culture, including manga comics and J-pop music. The centers also sponsor Japan-China cultural exchange events.