



# The Japan Forum Newsletter

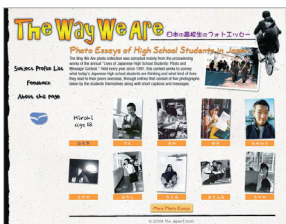
国際文化フォーラム通信

June  
2004

No. 33

## TJF News

### Photo Essays of High School Students in Japan



The new "The Way We Are" site

### Japanese Culture Now



まんが喫茶 (Manga Cafes)

#### About the TJF Newsletter

Beginning with the No. 34 issue, the two annual feature issues and two full-color, gate fold issues will be replaced with four full-color, gatefold issues each year. Feature articles will no longer be included, but we plan to publish a special extra issue each year. The inside four-page spread of the new *Newsletter* will introduce the various materials available on the TJF Web site. The full-color composition will allow us to incorporate photographs and other materials offered on the TJF Web site connected with the theme of each issue. We hope teachers will post the *Newsletter* in the classroom and share it with their students. The back-center two pages will explain how the photographs and other materials can be transformed into attractive Japanese-language teaching materials in various ways. One of the back pages will provide information about TJF activities. We hope you will enjoy the *Newsletter's* new look.

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The *TJF Newsletter* follows the practice of placing the Japanese surname first.

## TJF News

### The Way We Are: Photo Essays of High School Students in Japan

#### The New English Site to open in July

TJF has thus far published annually *The Way We Are* (TWWA)—a photo collection made up of the prize-winning and other works from the Lives of Japanese High School Students: Photo and Message Contest. This photo collection, printed in Japanese with an English text insert, has been donated to high schools and other institutions offering Japanese language education overseas. Beginning in 2003, however, as announced in issue Number 30 of the *Newsletter*, the publication of the photo collection has been reoriented to a Japanese readership, and an English text is no longer provided in printed form. TJF's efforts to introduce and facilitate access to the contest entries and texts for interested readers overseas will now work primarily through a new site within the TJF Web site. The new English site, entitled "The Way We Are: Photo Essays of High School Students in Japan," will feature excerpts from the contents of TWWA photo collections. The URL is <http://www.tjf.or.jp/thewayweare/>.

The new "The Way We Are" site is designed mainly as a means to open up the works submitted to TJF's photo and message contest by Japanese high school students for the interest of high

school students in English-speaking countries overseas. The central purpose of the contest, conducted by TJF since 1997, is to convey the thoughts and daily lives of high school students in Japan to their peers living overseas through photo essays, each entry being composed of five photographs taken by the high school students themselves with accompanying captions and messages. The completely new content of the English TWWA site, with photos and essays selected from among the nearly 2,000 submitted to the seven contests held to date, is designed to introduce the rich personalities and diverse faces of Japanese high school students in a more easily accessible and understandable manner. For this issue, the Meeting People column will be temporarily replaced with an introduction to the new TWWA site. The TJF Web site offers a large amount of material and information useful in the teaching of Japanese; we hope Japanese-language teachers will use these resources to the full for their lesson plans and classroom activities. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding "The Way We Are" site, the TJF Web site or other topics, please contact us at [newsletter@tjf.or.jp](mailto:newsletter@tjf.or.jp).

#### The Way We Are 2003 is now available

The Japanese edition of *The Way We Are 2003* will be mailed to those who apply to receive a printed copy.

To receive a copy of *The Way We Are 2003* (A4 size, 64 pages), send a letter by e-mail or fax with your full name, delivery address (including country), affiliated school or institution name, and e-mail address, referring to the contact information below. The deadline for applications is the last day of September. A free copy will be sent in response to the first 100 applications.

E-mail: [forum@tjf.or.jp](mailto:forum@tjf.or.jp)  
FAX: 81-3-5322-5215

Please also note that *yomigana* for the Japanese text and the insert providing an English translation of the text are no longer included. The Japanese edition will be sent to those who apply to

receive the volume. Those who have received the photo collection as a donation in past years should apply again to receive the collection.

#### For more information

For those who would like to see more of Japan's high school students, the prize-winning works from the past seven photo contests are available on the Japan Forum's Japanese Web site devoted to the Lives of Japanese High School Students: Photo and Message Contest (URL: <http://www.tjf.or.jp/photocon/index.htm>). In addition to works submitted to this contest, the TJF Photo Databank Web site (URL: [http://databank.tjf.or.jp/intro\\_e.html](http://databank.tjf.or.jp/intro_e.html)) also contains numerous photographs depicting the daily lives of Japan's elementary and secondary school students. The databank, moreover, may be searched by category for particular photographs. Please feel free to use these resources in tandem.

Japanese Culture Now

# まんが喫茶: まんがを読む場所から、くつろぎの空間へ

## Manga Cafes: From Reading Spot to Relaxation Space



Many of the customers at this Shibuya manga cafe are the young people in their late teens and early twenties who frequent this Tokyo commuter and shopping/entertainment hub. Six to seven-hundred people visit daily, and on busy weekend evenings, all of its 144 seats are likely to be taken. During the day, men and women often take a break from their work to stop by, and in the evening and nighttime the cafe is a popular stop-off for students and working people on their way home. The shop's shelves are lined with some 40,000 manga, magazines, and photo collections.

Every week the cafe posts a ranking of the most popular manga. This week they are, from first to fifth: *no oji sama* [The Prince of Tennis], *Bagabondo* [Vagabond], *Ai yori aoshi* [True Blue Love], *Doragonboru* [Dragon Ball Z] and *Beruseruku* [Berserk].



It is also quite common for people who miss the night to spend the night at a *manga kissa*. Shows are available for use at 300 yen per half-hour. A pair of slippers (100 yen) and a fresh pair of Boxer shorts (500 yen) are the personal toiletries available for purchase.



Television is of course available, and customers are free to watch any of 70 DVD titles and listen to any of the 200 music CDs available in the cafe. There are also about 300 video game titles to choose from for use with the PS2 and X-Box consoles. These cafes are also popular as places to go with a friend or a date to sit in a love seat and watch movies or enjoy video games.



At the self-serve drink bar all drinks are free of charge. Those who get hungry can also order *bento* (box-lunch of rice topped with sweet-ginger sauce) for 100 yen; a *karubi-don* (bowl of rice with seasoned, broiled beef) for 100 yen; and *bifu kare* (rice with beef curry) is 380 yen. Customers are free to bring along their own food and drink.

### Visiting a Manga Kissa

Step 1.

First you visit the reception counter.



Step 2.

Choose your seat preference: There are five types, including massage chairs and recliners. All types of seats cost the same.



Step 3.

Select non-smoking or smoking.





Manga cafes (*manga kissa*) got their start in Nagoya back in 1979 as a style of coffee shop offering a large collection of manga comics available for customers to read on the premises. Those familiar with the early era of the manga cafes are likely to remember rather cramped and dim shops where customers were absorbed in reading manga and did little else. Such images, however, are a thing of the past. The manga cafes of today are bright

and spacious—places where anyone can feel comfortable, even a young woman entering alone.

Reading manga is not the only pastime offered by manga cafes today. Customers can now access the Internet, view DVDs, play video games, or relax in a massage chair. The approximately 2,000 *manga kissa* throughout Japan are thus multipurpose spots for relaxation and diversion, now a familiar part of daily life.

Photos: Hongo Jin

### Manga Kissa Yesterday and Today

- 1979** *Manga kissa* originate in Nagoya. Coffee-house style.
- 1997** The library-style *manga kissa* emerges, featuring long tables with chairs around them. Shops offer collections of about 5,000 to 15,000.
- 1998** About 300 stores nationwide. *Manga kissa* become established fixtures of popular culture and more stores open.
- 1999** Increasing number of stores introduce facilities for amusement, such as Internet access and video games, and amenities like reclining chairs and free self-service drink bars. The standard style for today's *manga kissa* is established.
- 2000** Transition from *manga kissa* to multifaceted cafe. Growing number of stores in which all seats are equipped with television and computer monitors, allowing customers to enjoy TV, DVDs, video games, Internet, etc.
- 2001** Number of *manga kissa* as multifaceted cafes reaches 1,500 nationwide.
- 2002** *Manga kissa* business expands to 2,000 stores nationwide. Internet connections upgraded with the installation of fiber-optic lines, etc.

\*For CDs, DVDs, and video games, manga cafes market use of these media to customers under their user licenses acquired according to copyright law. Books and magazines, however, are circulated free of charge because there are no regulations regarding their rental in Japan. Manga artists and publishing firms claim that if these practices continue, not only will authors not receive a fair return on the profits generated by *manga kissa* but the number of manga buyers will decrease, causing the manga market to collapse. They hope for a revision to the current law that will acknowledge "lending rights," allowing them to collect copyright use fees on published materials similar to that for other media. Discussion of these proposals is currently underway.



まんが@カフェ ゲラゲラ  
Manga@Cafe Gera Gera, Udagawacho branch, Shibuya. This chain has 47 branches nationwide.

Most popular:  
Tenisu (Tennis),  
Kabond],  
Ball],



The last train late at  
power facilities are  
razor for shaving  
(0 yen) are among

ConvenienceGoods		AmenityGoods	
ヘアムース	¥300	ネクタイ	¥1000
歯磨き粉	¥180	トランク	¥500
歯ブラシ	¥200		
歯磨きフォーム	¥200	ストッキング	¥300
洗面液	¥200	カーペット掃除機	¥200
カラーペンギンゲーム	¥200	サイター	¥100
ヒゲ剃り	¥100	ビニール袋	¥300
ヘアオイル	¥200	新聞紙	¥300
歯磨きシート	¥200	雑誌	¥150
ヘアワックス	¥200	ヘアブラシ	¥150
ヘアスプレー	¥200	ヘアゴム	¥100
ヘアクリーム	¥200	ヘアピン	¥200
ヘアジェル	¥150		

お求めのお客様はカウンターまでお越しください。



Because *manga kissa* now offer PCs with high-speed cable Internet access, businessmen find them convenient places to do business while away from the office. Many people also enjoy surfing and playing games over the Net.



including coffee, tea, soda,  
er a box lunch. A *shoga-yaki*  
nger sauteéd pork) costs 480  
roiled rib-meat slices) is 380  
yen. Customers may also be



The private rooms are equipped with sofas and massage chairs where customers can relax as they would in the comfort of their own home. Quite a few people can in fact be found napping there.

#### Step 4.

Decide how long you will use the facilities and pay your tab. The rate is 400 yen per hour, and 100 yen for every 15 minutes that you extend your stay. The three-hour set rate at 880 yen and the six-hour set rate at 1,180 yen are a bargain.

#### Step 5.

**Kick back and relax!**

\*For the health and protection of young people and in order to prevent damage and crime, the Japan Complex Cafe Association issues strict store operation guidelines. Staff make regular rounds of customers to forestall underage drinking and smoking. Customers under the age of 16 after 8 p.m. and customers under 18 years of age after 10 p.m. are not permitted on the premises.



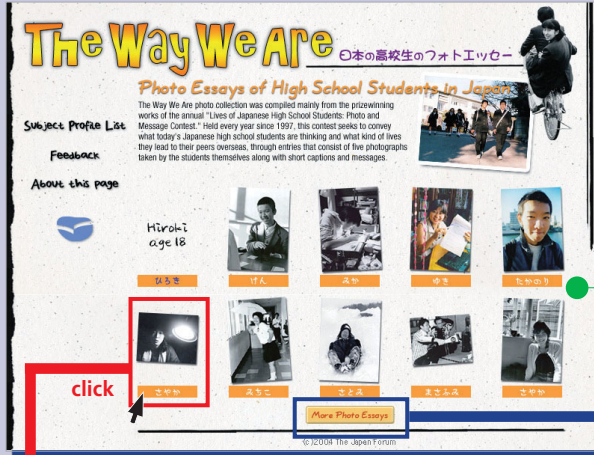
# Photo essays by Japanese high school students

<http://www.tjf.or.jp/thewayweare/>

As introduced in column one, the Japan Forum will launch a new English Web site, The Way We Are: Photo Essays of High School Students in Japan, to display works submitted to TJF's annual Lives of Japanese High School Students: Photo and Mes-

sage Contest and information relating to these works. As we tour the new Web site in this issue, we will give readers a look at the real faces of today's Japanese high school students.

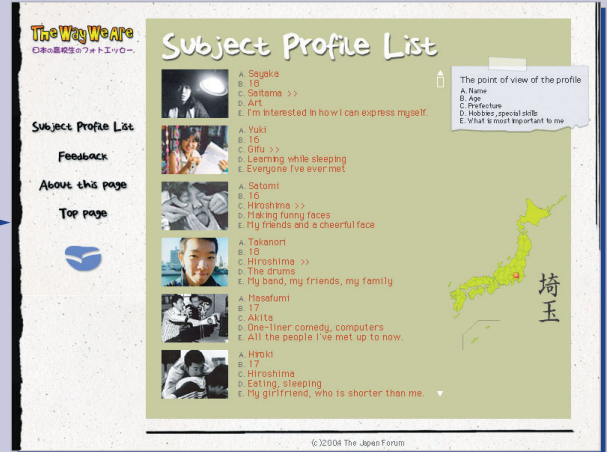
Top Page



When the new web site opens up in a browser, the portraits and names of 10 high school students appear on the top page. To begin with, the page will feature the photographs (50 in all) and essays of 10 students.

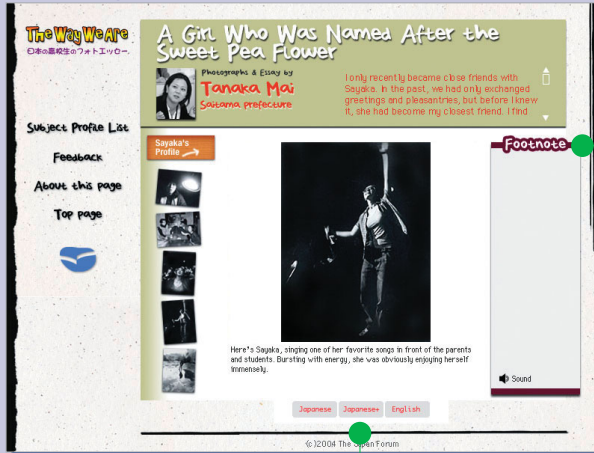
By clicking on one of the portraits on the top page, visitors can access each subject's individual page. These individual pages each feature five photographs with captions, a profile of the subject, and an English translation of a text message by the photographer and the subject from the 2002 contest.

Subject Profile List



TJF plans to periodically expand the content by adding new photographs and essays from among the prize-winning works of past and future contests. A page has also been set up listing all the high school students featured on the site. It is designed to allow visitors to observe each of the students' hobbies, hometowns, treasured items, etc., and use this information to help select the high school student with whom they have a particular affinity from among the many featured on the site.

Individual Page



Where necessary, footnotes and links to explanatory photos and in-depth explanations will be appended to the English translations. For some photos, Web site visitors will also be able to listen to an audio recording. These and other features will make the site an enjoyable venue for high school students overseas who are learning about Japan and the Japanese language to come in contact with that language and the Japanese high school students who speak it.

Two easy-to-understand rewrite versions of the Japanese captions and essays (one with and the other without *yomigana* readings) are provided for language learners. High school language learners overseas can be assigned to read the Japanese while referring to the English text for support.



Now let's take a look at the page about "Yuki-san," one of the subjects at the site.



# My Role-model Konishi-senpai



Konishi-senpai sprinkling water on her home vegetable garden. That day, we were playing around so much that we both ended up getting totally soaked.

Going into nap mode, she mumbles, "This stuffed animal feels sooo good!!!"



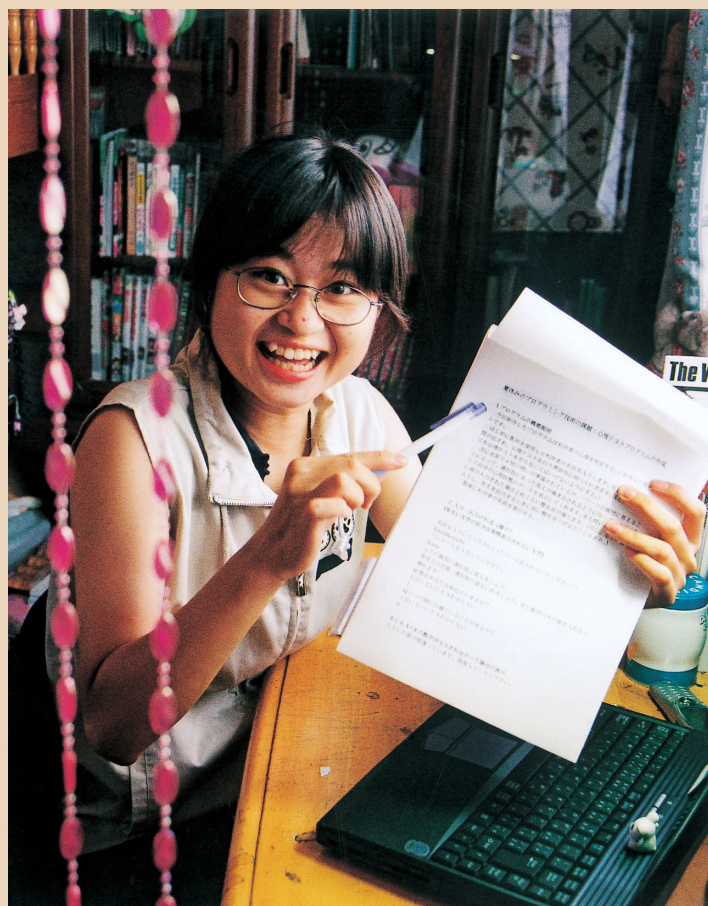
"Look at this! This homework problem is really tough!" she says, holding up her homework for me to see. I was even more stumped by it . . .



Here she watches her younger sister play the electric organ, teaching her and singing along with her. "she's just what a big sister should be," I thought.



Here her father is showing her his factory. she and her sister listen closely as their father explains the equipment he builds himself in his workshop.





## The Girl I Look Up To

Photos & Essay by Esaki Yuka, Gifu prefecture



While I was photographing her for this contest, I realized that all of us—my role-model Konishi-senpai\* (Yuki), myself, and everyone else—are supported by many different people, and that we all get through life by bolstering one another. Until now, I had been convinced that I was the only one whose effort wasn't rewarded, and that I alone was really trying hard. That made me tend to be resentful of people around me and envious of others. But now I have become aware of the many people who support me from behind the scenes; I know they are there.

That is the way the world today is, I think, with all of us supporting each other in one way or another. But in fact, we're not headed in a very good direction right now, with people hating, attacking, and retaliating against each other. I think it is best just to apply yourself and if there's something you envy, you should try to get closer to it, even a little, yourself. It's also important to cooperate with the endeavors of others. We should make this a world where we can join together in peace to discuss issues and compromise so that all parties can be satisfied. As I gradually think about and come to understand these things better in the future, I want to try my best to be even a little more like Konishi-senpai, the girl I look up to.

### Footnote

\*senpai: someone who entered the school, university, or place of employment before you did. The term senpai is used to mean seniors in general, but it is also used to refer to individuals with the person's name—usually their surname but sometimes their first name—plus "senpai," as in "Konishi-senpai."

### Profile



ゆき (Yuki), age 16

**Hobbies, special skills:** Learning while sleeping.

**Favorite words/phrases:** Never give up. (*akiramenai*)

**What is most important to me:** Everyone I've ever met

**What I enjoy most:** Doing fun activities in photography club and increasing the number of club members

**What kind of person I am:** I tend to be a person who just goes ahead and does things without saying much about it, but I often fail. I am also slow to pick myself up again.

**Future ambition:** To take up a job that involves cultivating people. To get up the nerve to converse normally with the boys in class.

I'm going to be a third-year student next year. I'm a little uneasy, what with the economy in a slump recently and wars going on all over the world. Because I go to a technical school, moreover, I'm one of only two girls in a class of thirty-nine, and I worry about a lot of things, like how I still can't get up the nerve to have a regular conversation with the boys. For someone as shy as me, you'd never believe my dream is to go on to college and become a school teacher. Such a dream seems almost impossible to achieve, but I won't get discouraged. I'll just keep on doing my best, day by day.

## Scenes from the diverse lives of students to be found at the site.

### With People



When he is with his friends, Tatsuyuki is always cheerful and fun to be with.

📍 Maeji Akihiko



When I visit, Nobuhiko's w... out to greet

📍 Inoue K...



A fisherman who sold Kumiko some squid smiles and chats.

📍 Kikuchi Megumi



The living room in Mika's grand... is where the family congregates and sp

📍 Go'o Kumiko

### Working

は〜い、  
通してください!

Helping out at the restaurant her father runs, Onaka-san is a loyal daughter.

📍 Sonoda Tadashi



Nobuhiko works part-time doing *nengajo* deliveries during the *O-shogatsu* holidays.

📍 Inoue Keita





# high school

In addition to the ten photo essays on the site at its opening in July, we will continue to increase the number of works available, adding more from the prize-winning entries from the first contest in 1997 onward on a regular basis. This issue shows a variety of high school students in Japan, including some to be introduced in later issues. All these entries are already available on the Japanese TWWA Web site at [http://www.tjf.or.jp/photocon/pastwork/b\\_2003.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/photocon/pastwork/b_2003.htm).

## Enthusiasms



Whole family comes to me.



mother's house depends time together.



Yokota-kun won out over several strong opponents at his last Kendo tournament.

Amemiya Koji



A dance at Nana-chan's last school culture festival.

Gomi Wakako



Miki-chan photographing in a field of cosmos with a fisheye lens.

Go'o Kumiko



"Taji-taji-kun" goes into the studio alone to practice his drumming for the recording.

Uemoto Ichiko



When wrestling practice starts, Ikawa-kun undergoes an abrupt change and puts on a serious face.

Matsuo Megumi

ちよつとそれと取ってちょうだい。

だいこんりっぱな大根でしょ?

## At Home

う〜ん、難しいなあ。



Kozue digging daikon radishes.

Arai Satoko



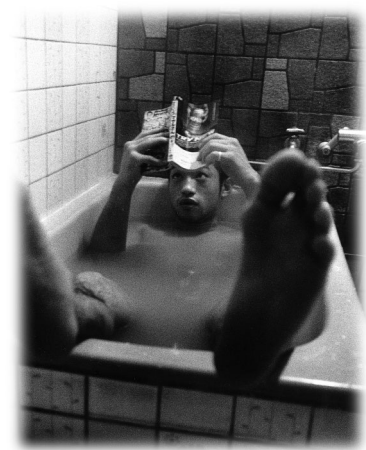
At night in her room, Tsutsumi does a nose pack and paints her toenails.

Kondo Yumiko



Shinobu-chan studying for the entrance examinations for nursing school.

Kon Kanako



Reveling in his relaxation, Ikawa-kun reads a manga comic in the bathtub.

Matsuo Megumi



Michiko was talking about being on a diet until a minute ago, but as soon as she has a bowl of udon, her favorite noodles, in front of her, she can't help indulging.

Morita Hitomi

Erina working at a convenience store.

Nakasai Chiya

### Deai Photo Essay Submissions Invited

As mentioned in my message in the previous issue, starting in September the Deai Photo Essay project will invite submissions of photo-essays from high school students all over the world for posting at the Deai site. TJF invites high school students studying Japanese using the Deai resources to write about and send their impressions of the seven Deai students as well as photo-essays of their own. The photo-essay works will introduce high school students to their peers in other countries including Japan. We believe this site will be an excellent place for Japanese-language learners to express themselves in Japanese (with some help from their native language). In anticipation of this project, fifteen Japanese-language teachers agreed to serve as monitors and are busy working with students in their classes creating sample photo-essays. We were delighted to read some of the reasons cited by the teachers who responded to our call for monitors. Let me quote two of them here:

\*Miyuki Johnson, Elkins Pointe Middle School, GA, USA

My students love Deai's big pictures and love to learn about Japanese students' "real lifestyles." I think this opportunity to make their own "photo-essays" is a wonderful idea, and my students will love working on this project, because they can talk about themselves. Taking pictures is fun and interesting to all the students. This project will definitely motivate my students, helping them increase their vocabulary and improve their speaking/writing skills without resistance, because it is about *themselves*.

\*Simone Tynan, Christ the King Anglican College, Victoria, Australia

My students live in rural Australia, in a small country town of about 3,500 people. Many do not ever think of traveling to other countries, as it seems too difficult. When we read about the different Deai students' stories, however, their world becomes bigger. They had not thought that Japanese students might have the same dreams and interests that they do. The wonderful photos showed them how different some parts of Japanese life are, yet, they were also surprised to see that many things were the same. We would like to return this wonderful gift and share it with other students around the world. We would like to show the world our little part of it. The lives, hopes and dreams of Australian country children who often help milk cows before school, ride buses 60 km to school and back each morning and evening, and drive tractors on weekends.

### About REX-NET

The Network for International Education/REX-NET is an NPO founded just this April. The Japan Forum has cooperated with the launching of this NPO and is home to one of the offices of the Network. REX stands for Regional and Educational Exchanges for Mutual Understanding, a program launched in 1990 by the Japanese Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications and local governments across the country, which sends public and private school teachers (the majority are English-language teachers) overseas to serve in posts as Japanese-language teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

REX-NET was established by former REX Program participants and other educators, together with local citizens concerned with international education, to contribute to education-related activities in Japan and overseas in the same spirit as the REX Program in the three areas of international education, foreign-language education, and Japanese-language education. REX-NET activities will include symposia and seminars for teachers, conduct research and hold workshops on education, develop textbooks and publish various kinds of materials, as well as conduct programs for exchange with schools in Japan and other countries. It is also expected to help support links with Japanese-language teachers overseas. The first national convention of the Network is to be held June 26-27 in Tokyo. Japanese-language teachers overseas interested in engaging in exchange (via e-mail and other means) with English-language classes at elementary and secondary schools in Japan are encouraged to contact TJF for further information. An "Expo," Information Exchange Program to promote exchanges with schools overseas is scheduled for June 27th, when various exchange programs will be introduced.

Nakano Kayoko  
Secretary General

## Major TJF Programs in Fiscal 2004

### A. Japanese-language Education Programs

- ❖ Co-sponsorship of the first training program for elementary school teachers of Japanese in China (new program)
- ❖ Production and donation of supplementary Japanese-language materials for elementary school use (new program)
- ❖ Support for Japanese-language education for secondary schools in China
- ❖ Editorial cooperation in compiling Japanese-language textbooks for secondary school use in China
- ❖ Publication of the 1996-2002 report on the Teachers Training Program for Secondary School Teachers of Japanese in China
- ❖ *Hidamari* (publication in print form and production and maintenance of Web site)
- ❖ Management of photograph teaching resource Deai Project
- ❖ Production and maintenance of TJF Photo Data Bank
- ❖ TJF network for Japanese-language education

### B. Chinese-language Education Programs

- ❖ Cooperation for training sessions of senior high school teachers of Chinese (new program)
- ❖ Cooperation and assistance for activities of senior high school Chinese-language education study group
- ❖ Production and maintenance of Chinese Photo and Illustration Data Bank
- ❖ *Xiaoxi* (publication in print form and production and maintenance of Web site)
- ❖ TJF network for Chinese-language education

### C. Korean-language Education Programs

- ❖ Support for training sessions for senior high school Korean-language teachers
- ❖ Support and assistance for JAKEHS activities
- ❖ Publication of a collection of senior high school Korean-language lesson plans
- ❖ Support for Korean-language study program for senior high school students
- ❖ Publication of a research report on Korean-language education in senior high schools and universities
- ❖ TJF network for Korean-language education

### D. International Understanding Education Programs

- ❖ Support and assistance for REX-NET activities
- ❖ Eighth Daily Lives of Japanese High School Students Photography Contest
- ❖ *The Way We Are* (publication in print form and production and maintenance of Web site)
- ❖ TJF network for the education for international understanding

### E. Publications and Web Site

- ❖ *Kokusai Bunka Forumu Tsushin* (publication in print form and production and maintenance of Web site)
- ❖ *The Japan Forum Newsletter* (publication in print form and production and maintenance of Web site)
- ❖ Publication of TJF annual report (Japanese and English editions)
- ❖ Organization and donation of books and teaching materials
- ❖ Production and maintenance of TJF Web site
- ❖ Maintenance of TJF server and information equipment
- ❖ TJF public relations network