

JAPAN STUDIES

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Ms. Koko Tanimoto Kondo (front center) with a few students and faculty at her UW talk "Living with Hiroshima: My Memories of 66 Years" on February 7, 2012. Kondo spoke about her life as an atomic bomb survivor and her ongoing work for peace. Co-sponsored with the Peace Philosophy Centre, Vancouver, Canada. Photo: Brian Chu (MAIS 2012)

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FROM THE CHAIR



Marie Anchordoguy

CHAIR, UW JAPAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Though the first anniversary of the March 2011 earthquake has passed, its reverberations continue to shake Japan. This event, together with two decades of sluggish economic growth and recent political volatility, leaves Japan at a turning point in several ways. All nuclear power plants are expected to be off-line by late April, since local citizens will not allow them to be restarted after required off-line safety checks every 13 months. Cutbacks in electricity use, the restarting of conventional power plants, and huge fuel imports mean nuclear power is not an absolute necessity. Going without nuclear energy is much more expensive, but most Japanese citizens oppose it, though the government and business sector strongly support it. Energy uncertainty, together with the historically high yen, is accelerating the movement overseas of manufacturing firms, which need a stable supply of cheap electricity.

While no country could have dealt well with the earthquake and its aftermath, leaders' neglect of warnings about the reactors' design and age and a possible tsunami, as well as decision-making after the quake, have led to a rise in distrust of the government and government-business relations, and growing doubts about the consensual decision-making process. People are questioning authority in ways not seen since the early postwar period. While good for Japanese democracy, this adds to political and economic uncertainty.

There are concerns about low radiation in the Tokyo metropolitan area. A few hot spots and tainted food have been found. There is little data on the impact of low rates of radiation over long periods. This, together with uncertainty about where radiation is and isn't, continues to impact people's sense of well-being, especially those with young children or of child-bearing age.

The earthquake also hit the economy hard. GDP had almost returned to the pre-2008 global financial crisis levels. Production dropped 10%, but most firms bounced back by autumn 2011, although auto and electronics firms were subsequently impacted by floods in Thailand. Growth in 2012 is forecast around 1-2%. Spending some \$250 billion on cleanup and rebuilding will stimulate the economy over the short-run. But Japan's growth rate depends very heavily on exports, which are expected to continue to suffer due to the sluggish global economy.

Japan's national debt is over 200% of GDP and still growing. The 2012 government budget means that for three years in a row, borrowing slightly exceeds tax revenues. By comparison, the U.S. borrows about 36 cents of each dollar it spends. U.S. credit rating agencies' downgrades of Japan in January 2011 and again in August after the earthquake were not so much about government debt per se, but rather reflected a lack of confidence in leaders' capacity to get debt under control.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda is proposing to raise the consumption tax from the current 5% to 8% in 2014 and to 10% in 2015. This is political suicide and his party is against it. If by some chance he can get it through Parliament, it will help convince the markets that Japan has the political

Continued on page 2

From the Chair continued

will to start curbing government debt. But raising taxes when the economy is fragile will hurt domestic consumption. And studies suggest that the rate needs to go to 15-20% to cover the costs of the rapidly aging population.

In 2011 Japan had its first annual trade deficit since 1980, largely due to increased fuel imports and lower exports as a result of the earthquake. This may be the beginning of Japan moving toward annual trade deficits, which would increase national debt over time. Still, including the government, corporations, and citizens, Japanese have some \$3.3 trillion (251 trillion yen) more in foreign reserves and investments than other countries hold in Japanese investments. That is, Japan has a bigger capital surplus than any other country.

Japanese people showed how resilient they are by acting admirably after the earthquake, helping each other rather than looting. Still, with uncertainty about electricity, instability on the Korean peninsula, and the slowing Chinese, U.S., and European economies, Japan's economy is likely to experience sluggish growth for the foreseeable future. We are seeing a decoupling of Japanese firms from the Japanese economy. It used to be that if Japanese companies did well, Japan's economy did well. Now Japanese firms, with their growing operations overseas, may do very well even though the Japanese economy as a whole will likely continue to grow only slowly.

At the University of Washington, we are covering many of these issues in our courses, and in special lectures given by visiting scholars, with the intent to educate not only our students but the broader community as well. This year we partnered with the Japan-America Society, Japan Business Association, and UW Foster School of Business to host a business roundtable aimed at exploring the impact of the 3/11 tsunami on local business. We have hosted many scholars and others, including most notably Gene Park, political scientist from Loyola Marymount University; Japanese literature scholars Haruo Shirane, Melissa McCormick, and Joshua Mostow in partnership with the Seattle Asian Art Museum; and, through our Japan Consulate Series, former ambassador from Japan Tadahiro Abe, Masaki Kaifu of Wowmax Media, and the Consul General of Japan in Seattle, the Honorable Kiyokazu Ota. To see upcoming events, please visit our Japan Studies Events page at depts.washington.edu/japan/events.

GLOBAL ENDS—TOWARDS THE BEGINNING

Professor Ken Tadashi Oshima of the UW College of Built Environments published *GLOBAL ENDS—towards the beginning* (Toto, 2012) based on his curation of the 2010–11 exhibition commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Toto Gallery MA in Tokyo and two-day symposium held at the exhibition's opening. Seven architectural practices from around the world were featured in the exhibition, each rooted in a distinct region, culture, and environment in the era of global economic and social change between the tragic events of 9/11/01 and 3/11/11. UW alum Tom Kundig FAIA (BA Environmental Design '77; MARCH '81) of Olson Kundig Architects was the only North American architect to participate.

The featured architectural practices looked to the primordial past and to the future to critically examine the potential of the present through the experiences of everyday life—which are different from the seven different vantage points. *GLOBAL ENDS—towards the beginning* juxtaposes local standards and highlights the rich potential for design, both in the exhibition and in built work captured in the photographs, drawings, and narrative of the book.



UPCOMING EVENT

Japan Today: Currents of Disaster: Radiation, Ocean, and Safety in Post-Fukushima Japan

Dr. Satsuki Takahashi, Princeton University

For information on this and other events, please visit our Events page at depts.washington.edu/japan/events

NEW WEBSITE!

This website is our new portal to all things Japan at the University of Washington.
GO TO: depts.washington.edu/japan/

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fusae Ekida, PhD in Japanese, assistant professor of Japanese, University of Evansville.

Jon Holt, PhD in Japanese, assistant professor of Japanese, Portland State University.

Robert Hoppens, PhD in History-Japan, assistant professor, Department of History and Philosophy, University of Texas Pan-American.

Shannon Quinn, BA Japan Studies, MA Higher Education Administration, manager of student services, CIEE Tokyo Study Center, Sophia University, Japan.

Yuki Shigeto, PhD in Japanese, assistant professor of Japanese, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington.

STUDENT HELPS WITH RELIEF EFFORT

By Sam Timinsky (Japan Studies MA candidate)

I had planned to intern in the Kansai area during the summer between my first and second years of graduate school. However, when the tsunami struck Japan in March 2011, I began searching for organizations providing direct aid to the people of Tōhoku.

I spent the summer in Kyoto fundraising and working for a nonprofit organization that gathers food and supplies for survivors of the 3/11 disaster. Pooling resources from the Osaka and Kyoto areas, our organization was able to make 11 trips to the disaster area in 2011. I went on the September trip to Minami Souma, north of the exclusion zone, to deliver fresh water, rice, and canned supplies in temporary housing settlements.

Driving through the area around the disaster zone, I was struck by the vastness of the disaster; a small downtown area previously inhabited by a few thousand people was empty with doors taped shut. I was also struck by the determination of people in temporary housing to rebuild their lives. Children were going back to school and their parents were seeking work.

One woman's words in particular have stayed with me. During an interview (by one of our members), one of the residents of a temporary housing community said: "I want every nuclear plant in Japan shut down; we need to find another way." Her sentiments have become a reality: most of Japan's 54 plants are off-line for safety inspections (as of March) and may be indefinitely shut down as nuclear power is reevaluated in Japan.

More than four months after the disaster, the landscape was still messy and chaotic. Fishing boats remained on the sides of roads, beached where the tsunami left them. Not all roads into the exclusion zone had been properly marked to prevent people—including aid workers—from getting lost. Survivors had medicine, food, water, and shelter, but I saw no signs of coordinated efforts to relocate residents away from the affected areas.

Upon returning to Kyoto and sharing my experiences with friends, I was surprised by the seeming ambivalence of many people outside the disaster area concerning the

suffering in Tōhoku, not unlike U.S. attitudes toward Hurricane Katrina victims once their story left news headlines. However, some were willing to help, including students and other young people who donated funds and helped our organization develop new relationships and expand its network. One man donated his truck 11 times for us to drive to the disaster area. These are just a few examples of Japanese citizens pulling together to respond to those in need.



ALUMNI IN SENDAI

By Nicole Rehorst (MAIS Japan 2007)

On March 11, I was teaching at a language school in Sendai when the earthquake hit. It went on for longer than I ever imagined one could, but its strength was deceptively modest where I was. There was little visible damage at first, and it would be more than two hours before I was even aware of the tsunami threat. Even so, I had to spend the night at the school where I worked. It wasn't until the next morning that I saw the newspaper and truly understood.

Since then, I have been asked many times how I am, how Sendai is, how the recovery is progressing. It's a hard question to answer. Despite our position, Sendai was affected most by deprivation – lack of fuel, food, electricity, gas, and water – not by physical

damage. We were fortunate because once those things were restored, normal life returned with surprising speed. The earthquake is a rallying point for people, but it's also something that this city, at least, wants to put firmly in its past. Few if any speak of the dangers of the radiation from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is a little more than 80 km south. I cannot pick out the students who lost everything and are living in temporary housing. I know of one student whose house was destroyed, yet despite several conversations about his experience with the tsunami, I didn't know he had been living in an elementary school for months until another teacher told me. I still don't know how many other students had, or still have, similar experiences.

I worry sometimes about this silence. We celebrate every new victory, whether it's our soccer team's best finish ever or a new fishing boat donated from Mie Prefecture, but we don't speak much of what has been lost. It seems to me sometimes that to do so is to show weakness and vulnerability instead of the tenacity everyone strives for. I admire the strength of the people around me, but I hope it does not leave the wounds underneath unhealed. So much of what I have seen has made me proud to live in Sendai. My hope is that the road to recovery will include more discussion and reflection even as the past grows more distant.

Marie Anchordoguy, professor of Japanese studies, was keynote speaker at a Kyoto University conference (January 2012) and at the Business History Society meeting in Tokyo (May 2012) which focused solely on her book *Nihon keizai no sai sekkei, kyōdōtai shihon shugi to haiteku sangyō no mirai* (Bunshindo, 2011). She presented a paper or was a discussant at meetings of the Academy of Management (August 2011, Texas), Association for Asian Studies (March 2012, Toronto), and Stanford's Japanese Entrepreneurship Conference (April 2012). She helped found the Asia Business Forum this year with local area business leaders.

Andrea Arai, affiliate lecturer, is co-organizing (with Clark Sorensen, UW Korea Studies) a conference titled "Spaces of Possibility," which will explore contemporary cultural interactions of Japan and Korea, September 21-23, 2012, at UW.

Paul Atkins, associate professor of Japanese language and literature, was awarded the 2011 William F. Sibley Memorial Translation Prize in Japanese Literature and Literary Studies, University of Chicago, for his work *Hara-kiri of a Woman at Nagamachi*, a translation of Chikamatsu Monzaemon's *Nagamachi onna-harakiri* (c.1712).

Davinder L. Bhowmik, associate professor of Japanese language and literature, was organizer and chair of a panel on Trauma and Violence in Contemporary Fiction from Okinawa at the International Symposium on Okinawan Studies, Waseda University, March 29-31, 2012. She presented her paper entitled "The Growing Prominence of the Basetown in Contemporary Literature," which focuses on a recent story by Tatsuhiro Ōshiro (1925-) on the Futenma military base relocation issue.

Akiko Iwata, senior lecturer of Japanese language, was the recipient of a 2011 Business Language Grant from the UW Global Business Center.

Ted Mack, associate professor of Japanese language and literature, compiled a reproduction of two Japanese-language textbook series, originally published for use by the Nikkei community in the Pacific Northwest between 1920 and 1938. With the help of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington and Harvard University, Mack was able to assemble all 28 volumes, many of which were unique extant copies that had been thought to be lost. The Tokyo-based publishing company Bunsei Shoin published these two series in February 2012. A complete reproduction of a similar series, much of which was also thought to be lost, of 16 volumes produced in California between 1924 and 1930, will follow later in 2012.

Keiko Yokota-Carter, Japanese Studies Librarian, has been nominated for the 2012 University of Washington Distinguished Librarian Award. The nomination is in recognition of her work in expanding the Japanese collection, increasing access to materials through teaching courses about how to use the library and internet to access Japanese-language materials, and innovative use of library space. One of several grants Yokota-Carter helped to garner is the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation grant of \$144,000 toward the Japan Studies Pre-Catalog Project at the East Asia Library.

Amy Ohta, associate professor of linguistics, is coordinating the Wilga Rivers Colloquium on Foreign Language Pedagogy at the 2012 meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics and is presenting her paper "Beyond the Zone of Proximal Development: The Assistance-Related Unit (ARU) as an Integrated Unit of Analysis for L2 Research." She was area editor for "Social, Dynamic and Complexity Approaches to Second Language Development" for the *Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics* (Wiley/Blackwell, 2012), which also features her biography.

Ken Tadashi Oshima, associate professor of architecture, is a Japan Foundation Research Fellow for the 2011-12 academic year at the University of Tokyo where he is researching the urban transformation of Tokyo during the 1960s and 1970s. He has recently published *GLOBAL ENDS – towards the beginning* (English/Japanese, Toto, 2012), which captures the Toto Gallery MA architectural exhibition he curated.

Robert J. Pekkanen, associate professor of international studies, published several articles and edited volume chapters in Japanese and English (on civil society and the triple disasters, US nonprofits' advocacy, a comparison of New Zealand and Japanese legislators, leadership in Japan, and other topics); served as a referee for the Polish equivalent of the National Science Foundation and on the selection committee for the American Political Science Association's Gregory Luebbert Article Award; was interviewed by the Danish media; and taught a class that featured a visit from a former member of the band Nirvana.

Kenneth B. Pyle, Henry M. Jackson Professor of History and Asian Studies, was the recipient of the 2011 Thomas S. Foley Award from the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington for his life-long service to furthering better understanding between Japan and the United States.

Michio Tsutsui, Donald E. Peterson Professor and director of the Technical Japanese Program, taught a two-week summer intensive course in Japanese linguistics at Columbia University. His course was a core course in the university's master's program, Teaching Japanese as a Second Language. He co-authored *Teaching Intermediate Japanese: Teacher's Guide* (Kuroshio Shuppan, 2011). This is the second volume to accompany his innovative intermediate Japanese textbook, *Tobira: Gateway to Advanced Japanese* (Kuroshio Shuppan, 2009), which is widely used here and abroad. More recently, he completed a linguistics paper on simultaneity expressions in Japanese, which will appear in *Japanese Language and Literature* (2012).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRIFFITH AND PATRICIA WAY LECTURE SERIES

UW Japan Studies continues to host the Griffith and Patricia Way Lecture series. Last year, T. J. Pempel, Professor of Comparative Politics and East Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, made a presentation entitled "Japan: Between Pork and Productivity." Renowned anthropologist William W. Kelly of Yale University gave this year's talk which was entitled "Will Soccer Be Japan's 21st Century Sport?" Kelly is known for his work exploring the significant influence of baseball in the modern histories of Japan's nationalism, ethnicity, schooling, corporate organization, and the media. His talk this April is a springboard for considering the ramifications of the meteoric rise in popularity of soccer in Japan for society and Japan's place in East Asia and world.



Japan women's soccer team

MITSUBISHI SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship 2011 recipients: Sam Timinsky, graduate award; Lisa Sticka and Derek Schlieps, undergraduate award.

Thank you Mitsubishi International Corporation for supporting the University of Washington Jackson School Japan Studies students. This is the first time the Mitsubishi Corporation has granted scholarships to students in Japan area studies at the University of Washington. Mitsubishi Corporation has granted scholarships to students at five U.S. universities since 2009, in addition to students at 48 other universities in 28 countries since 2000.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Farewell Bogel, Welcome Jesty

This year the UW Japan Studies Program loses Associate Professor Cynthea Bogel (School of Art) and gains Assistant Professor Justin Jesty (Asian Languages and Literature). Bogel is moving on to a position at Kyushu University spring quarter after 12 years at the University of Washington where she has shared her deep knowledge and insight into the history of art in Japan, particularly in Buddhist sculpture. Bogel will teach regular courses both in Japanese and in English as part of the Kyushu graduate program. We wish her well!

Justin Jesty (PhD University of Chicago) has been a lecturer at UW for the past 12 months teaching first-year Japanese language and will start this September as an assistant professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. His areas of study are modern Japanese literature, Japanese film and visual culture, and modern and early modern Japanese and Asian history. Welcome, Professor Jesty!



STUDENT AWARDS

Steffani Bennett (*MA Art History, Japanese*) received the 2011 Dean's Medal in the Arts, UW College of Arts and Sciences.

Issac Meyer (*MAIS Japan Studies*) received the Richard and Christine Kitto Fellowship, a Japan Studies Summer Travel Grant, and a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship 2011-12.

Derek Schlieps (*BA International Studies-Japan*) was awarded a Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship 2011.

Sachi Schmidt-Hori (*PhD candidate Japanese Language and Literature*) received the Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities, 2011-12, and the Graduate School Presidential Fellowship, Winter 2012.

Lisa Sticka (*BA International Studies-Japan*) was awarded a Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship 2011.

Cindi Textor (*MA Japanese / Korean*) received the UW's Schwartz Foundation Graduate Fellowship 2011-12. In 2010, Columbia University Press published her translation of Kim Sok-pom's work *The Curious Tale of Mandogi's Ghost*, a central work of postwar Japanese fiction.

Sam Timinsky (*MAIS Japan Studies*) was awarded the Ayako Betty Murakami Scholarship and a Mitsubishi Corporation International Scholarship 2011.

DONOR NEWS

The Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation has signed an agreement with the University of Washington Libraries to give \$144,000 toward the Japan Studies Pre-Catalog Project at the East Asia Library. This funding extends the position of Tateuchi Japanese Cataloger held by Ms. Saeko Suzuki for more than two years starting January 2012.

We are excited by and appreciative of this generous support from the Tateuchi Foundation for the effort to provide access to UW's valuable Japanese collection. This collection consists of approximately 6,500 Japanese-language publications, many of which are rare materials held by few libraries in the United States.

The Japan Studies Pre-Catalog Project was launched in January 2010 with support from the Tateuchi Foundation and has since made significant progress. Extended funding will carry the project to completion, and we look forward to making this special collection accessible via WorldCat by the end of 2014.

JAPAN STUDIES

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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES To sustain the UW Japan Studies Program for current and future generations of students, we request your tax-deductible gift to the UW Japan Studies Program. We are grateful to enthusiastic and dedicated alumni, faculty, friends, parents, corporations, and foundations who donate funds to support the Program. A few gifting options are summarized below:

Employer Matching

Your employer may be one of many companies encouraging philanthropy through a donation matching program. Please ask your employer about its matching gift instructions.

Tribute Gifts

A named scholarship or endowment for the UW Japan Studies Program would be an appropriate tribute to those who have touched our lives. This could be associated with a special occasion or a memorial gift. We hope you will also consider Japan Studies in your will.

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