

Activities Report for the fiscal year 2023

The main purposes of the Club are to promote international goodwill and to deepen mutual friendship and exchange of knowledge among the Club's Members; our activities are planned with these purposes firmly in mind.

I. Implemented programmes

1. Human resources development

- With the aim of supporting and encouraging human resources development within and outside Japan, the Club extended support amounting to JPY959,227,950 in the 2023 fiscal year through 15 established scholarship programmes; this total includes part of the lump-sum payment described in II.1.(2), which was used to make donations of JPY300 million to each of three prominent Japanese universities (the University of Tokyo, Keio University, and Waseda University) as an addition to the Club's Expenditure Plan for Public Interest Purposes, under which the Club gives various scholarships and grants for general human resources development.

2. Grants programme

(1) To promote mutual understanding among nations, the Club extended grants to support:

- 1) research on various issues concerning international relations, and international meetings aiming to enhance mutual understanding among nations;
- 2) academic research activities, academic conferences, and international cultural activities that contribute to enhancing international goodwill;
- 3) other projects meeting the objectives of the Club's grants programme.

Total number of projects supported: 19

Total outlay: JPY40,500,000

(2) Special Donations

Total number of projects supported: 1 (donation to support the victims of the Turkey-Syria earthquakes through the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo)

Total outlay: JPY5,000,000

3. Activities to promote international goodwill

(1) Family Parties

Attended by Members and members of their families, these dinners contribute to international exchange; they are held four times a year, in March, June, September and November.

(2) National Day Receptions

National Day Receptions are held to enhance international goodwill between Japanese and foreign nationals. Three events were held in 2023 to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan (February), the Independence Day of the United States of America (July), and the Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III (December).

(3) Monthly Dinners

These dinners are held on the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August, to promote the exchange of information among Members.

(4) Meetings and Discussions with Ambassadors and other Experts

Arranged privately by Members, 82 meetings qualified under this category as meeting the objective of exchanging information on domestic and foreign affairs.

(5) Study Meetings, Lecture Meetings, and International Conferences

Three study meetings on economics, culture, and art were held for the purpose of exchanging information on domestic and foreign international affairs.

4. Lecture Luncheon Meetings

Lecture Luncheon Meetings are held monthly, except in July and August, at which invited experts share their theories and opinions with Members and their guests to deepen their knowledge of international affairs.

II. Other Activities

1. Real Estate Leasing (The Tokyo Club Building)

(1) Three tenants renewed their rental contracts in 2023 at the current levels. In addition, the vacancy rate was reduced to 8% from 12% due to the increased floor space rented by an existing tenant. Attracting new tenants is still difficult in an environment where demand continues to decline due to the increase in remote working, the vacancy rate for office space in central Tokyo remains high, and oversupply is expected to continue.

(2) Conciliation proceedings

To clarify the lease agreement between The Tokyo Club and Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd. regarding the latter's lease of the Club's land in Kasumigaseki, the Club pursued mediation through the Tokyo Summary Court, and a settlement was officially reached between the two parties on 29th September, 2023.

2. International Cultural Exchange

(1) For the purpose of enhancing international goodwill and exchange through culture, the Club organized several theatre visits to watch opera, kabuki, bunraku, and ballet performances.

(2) Various parties and outings were planned throughout the year to promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

(3) Regular games competitions and lessons were held, which, along with the *shogi*, *igo*, golf, billiards, snooker, and bridge clubs, promote mutual friendship and international exchange among Members. Exchanges with other clubs were also planned.

(4) For the convenience of Members, the Club continued to enrich its collection of books for the library.

3. Services for Members

(1) The Club continued to cultivate good relations with the 36 overseas clubs with which it has reciprocal arrangements

(2) The Club continued to enhance the dining room, games rooms, and other facilities to help promote friendship among Members in comfortable surroundings.

- (3) Six issues of the Club Bulletin were published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- (4) The Members-only area of the Club's website was expanded to improve information provision for Members by adding notices about the Club's operations, along with obituaries for Club Members.
- (5) Meet the Author Dinners are designed to allow Members to interact with well-known authors in a convivial atmosphere; one such event was held in October 2023.
- (6) As part of the Club's efforts to collect materials related to the history of the Club, the relevant committee members interviewed Members and writers. A dedicated file box was installed in the Library to display the collected historical materials.
- (7) Smart phone training was held in June and July with the help of the Silver Human Resources Center.
- (8) Club membership as of the end of December 2023 stood as follows:
Honorary Members: 4
Life Members: 124
Resident Members (not including life Members): 513
Absent Members: 112
In 2023, the Club lost 23 Members and welcomed 17 new Members joined.

III. Other Activities

1. The Annual General Meeting was held on 24th February at the Tokyo Club, followed by a Board of Directors' Meeting. Board Meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August. Extraordinary Board of Directors' Meetings were held on 7th June, and 6th December.
2. A total of 38 Committee meetings were held, some via e-mail.
3. Repair work on the Club House
Renovation work was carried out on the Club House, which was closed for this purpose from August 11th to 20th. This work had been previously scheduled but was postponed because of the pandemic.

- Thirteen external multi-glazed windows with product defects were replaced; the wall coverings in the staircases and corridors, which had become worn or damaged over the years, were also replaced.
- Various wooden structures, pieces of furniture and iron doors were repainted.
- A 6-metre-high, 1.8-metre-wide frame with LED lighting was installed in the ground floor lobby to house the *washi* artwork by Eriko Horiki (see 4. (2) below).
- To prevent fires inside the exhaust ducts, cleaning was carried out to remove accumulated oil and dust; other electric and mechanical devices were also overhauled.

4. Purchases of artworks

With the approval of the Board of Directors last March, the Club purchased three major artworks under its arts acquisition programme.

- (1) The first is a photograph by Hiroshi Sugimoto of Atami Bay, which is displayed in the lounge on the second floor of the Club House. Having received The Praemium Imperiale in honour of Prince Takamatsu in 2017, a Medal with Purple Ribbon in 2010, and a Cultural Merit Award in 2017, Sugimoto's photographs are in demand among renowned museums worldwide.
- (2) The second is a 6-metre-high *washi* creation by Eriko Horiki. This is now a major feature of the main entrance lobby on the ground floor. After training as a *washi* craftsman, Ms. Horiki has been involved in the planning, production, and installation of *washi* interior art under the theme of "creating *washi* art in architectural spaces". Her works have been displayed at the Prime Minister's office, the French Ambassador's residence in Tokyo, and in Tokyo Midtown Hibiya.
- (3) The third is a collection of three illustrations entitled *Paper*, *Wax*, and *Paint* by Kisho Mukaiyama, which are displayed in the main Dining Room on the second floor. Mr. Mukaiyama has been dealing with light as a motif since his childhood, when he was exposed to Buddhist art on Mt. Koya. In his representative works using wax, he has been trying to give light a form and fix it in place. His works are owned by Mori Art Museum, Yokohama Museum of Art, and others.