

## 2022 Activities Report

Among the main objectives of the Club are the promotion of international goodwill and the cultivation of friendship and exchange of knowledge among members as the basis for forming a network of international goodwill and exchange. In accordance with these objectives, the Club carried out the following activities.

### 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 a total of JPY46,883,750 through eight established scholarship programmes.

#### 2. Grants programme

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

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

Total number of projects supported: 16

Total outlay: JPY 33,330,000

(2) Special donations

Total number of projects: 1 (donation towards humanitarian assistance in Ukraine)

Total outlay: JPY 5,000,000

#### 3. Activities to promote international goodwill

##### (1) Family Parties

Attended by members and members of their families, these dinners contribute to international exchange. The three Family Parties planned in March, June, and September were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but one was held in November.

##### (2) National Day Receptions

National Day Receptions are held to enhance international goodwill between Japanese and foreign nationals. The events planned to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan (February) and the Birthday of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (April) were cancelled because of the pandemic. An event was held in July to celebrate the Independence Day of the United States of America, however.

(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. Monthly dinners resumed in June.

(4) Meetings and Discussions with Ambassadors and other Experts

Arranged privately by members, 46 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

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

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, or deepen the audience's knowledge of international affairs. Lecture Luncheon Meetings planned in 2022 resumed in May.

II. Other Activities

1. Real Estate Leasing (The Tokyo Club Building)

(1) Three tenants requested rent reductions, citing worsening economic activity caused by the spread of the new coronavirus, but all three companies renewed their rental contracts at the 2022 level. In addition, the number of vacancies, which previously stood at three (15.2% vacancy rate), was reduced to two (12.5%) due to the increased floor space rented by an existing tenant. Attracting new tenants is still very difficult, as office demand continues to decline due to the uncertain earnings outlook caused by the pandemic. In addition, further oversupply is expected to continue, despite the still high vacancy rate in city-centre offices.

(2) Conciliation proceedings are under way at the Tokyo Summary Court over the Club's lease agreement with Mitsui Fudosan Co. for land owned by the Club in Kasumigaseki. The Club is seeking a more appropriate rent, and a conclusion expected to be reached by the end of 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 between March and December
- (2) Various parties and outings are planned throughout the year to promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding.
- (3) Regular games competitions and lessons are 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, but because of the pandemic, all of them were cancelled.
- (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 35 overseas clubs with which it has reciprocal arrangements.
- (2) The Club continued to enhance the dining room, games room, and other facilities to help promote friendship among members in comfortable surroundings.
- (3) Six issues of the Club Bulletin were published: 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 during the pandemic, along with obituaries for Club members. Also, online participation in Lecture Luncheon Meetings was made possible through access to the members-only section of the website.
- (5) Meet the Author Dinners, at which members interact with well-known authors in a convivial atmosphere, were resumed in November.
- (6) As part of the Club's efforts to collect materials related to the history of the Club, the relevant committee interviewed members and outside writers.

(7) Club membership as of the end of December 2022 stood as follows:

Honorary members: 3

Life members: 112

Resident members (not including life members): 531

Total: 646

Absent members: 113

In the year 2022, the Club lost 23 members and 18 new members joined.

### III. Other activities

1. The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th February at the Tokyo Club, followed by a Board of Directors' Meeting. Board meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month. Extraordinary Board of Directors' Meetings were held on 1st June, 5th July, and 7th December.

2. A total of 35 Committee meetings were held, some via e-mail.

#### 3. Repair work on the Club House

(1) A CO<sub>2</sub> control system was installed in the Club House to automatically regulate air intake depending on the level of CO<sub>2</sub> detected indoors. The system reduces energy consumption by properly adjusting the volume of air intake, and this is in line with the government's aim to realize a decarbonized society.

(2) The analogue audio equipment in the private rooms on the 3rd floor was 17 years old and had been proving unreliable, so it was replaced with a digital system that prevents the occurrence of interference and feedback. A touch tablet that enables quick operation of the audio system and lighting was also bought.

#### 4. Purchase of artworks

Items of Makie lacquerware and Iro Nabeshima porcelain were delivered on 4th July, following on from the purchase of a painting by Toko Shinoda that now hangs on the wall in the Dining Room.

(1) Made in 2022, the Iro Nabeshima porcelain is a piece by living national treasure Imaizumi Imaemon XIV entitled 色絵薄墨墨はじき果実草花文蓋付瓶 (Iroe usuzumi sumihajiki kajitsu kusabana mon futatsuki hei). It is 59.5 cm tall and has a diameter of 35 cm. It has been placed in the elevator hall on the second floor.

- (2) Made in 2021, the Makie lacquerware was created by living national treasure Kazumi Murose and is entitled 秋奏 (Shuso). It is 9 cm tall and has a diameter of 23 cm and can be viewed in the drawing room on the third floor.

## 5. Other items

The rules pertaining to female Visitors were changed with effect from September 1 to allow Members to invite ladies onto the Premises from 11 a.m. on weekdays rather than after 5 p.m. As before, members can of course invite ladies in after 11 a.m. on Saturdays. The amendment was made in response to the desire expressed by many Members to be able to dine at the Club with their wives or other ladies on weekday afternoons and to reflect the increased role played by women in promoting international goodwill, which is one of the Club's main objectives. The amendment does not affect any of the Club's rules pertaining to membership or the use of facilities such as the main bar and the 4th floor.