

The Sylff Newsletter

FEATURE

The Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum was held June 22–26, 2003, at The American University in Cairo (AUC). This forum was the second of three regional forums—including the North/South America SYLFF Regional Forum that was held in April 2003 (featured in *The SYLFF Newsletter* No. 6) and the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum to be held in October 2003—that will lead to a planning meeting, to be held in Tokyo in December 2003, concerning networking and collaboration among SYLFF fellows. In this issue, three forum participants (Tommaso Mancini Griffoli, Sadia Khan, and Patrick Kabanda) share their observations, and Sawsan Madini of the AUC presents comments from an organizer's perspective.

Living Multiculturalism

By Tommaso Mancini Griffoli

Currently a Ph.D. student in international economics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Mr. Griffoli received a SYLFF fellowship for the year 2001–2002. He can be contacted at Tommaso.mancini@stanfordalumni.org.

Egypt is a land of myths, stories, and legends. Like the tranquil flow of the Nile River, its grandiose past slowly reveals itself to us through images and interpretations shrouded in mysteries. For centuries, the trickle of stories and discoveries about Egypt has fascinated visitors of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Modern tour guides continue to profit from this lineage and generously contribute to the “spicing up” of Egyptian history. In this way were born such stories as that of Howard Carter’s dog, who supposedly howled to his death in London while his master unwrapped the mummy of Tutankhamen thousands of kilometers away. Likewise, tales of the tragic disappearances of Egyptologists after they awoke a great pharaoh from his eternal sleep are plentiful. Many of us at the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum will also remember our tour guide telling us the picturesque story of Carter being unable to find Tutankhamen’s tomb for years—until he dug under his own tent. The irony is biting, indeed. That story, and others like it, keep tourists amused and preserve Egypt’s fame as a land of mysteries.

But to us fellows at the forum, the last story in particu-



The Nile River, with Cairo high-rise buildings in the background.



The Opening Session in the Oriental Hall, AUC.

lar could not have been more relevant. We, like Carter, searched high and low and eventually found what we were looking for—right under our feet, so to speak. Sometimes tour guides are wiser than we think!

The theme of our forum was multiculturalism. Many of us had pondered this subject beforehand and came prepared with papers, slides, and a point of view to present and defend. Inspired by the ceremonial Oriental Room in the Ewart Building (the main building) on the main campus of The American University in Cairo (AUC), and prodded by each other’s eager questions, we had some lively discussions. We examined a variety of dimensions, definitions, applications, and dynamics of multiculturalism. We searched for grounds for agreement and critiqued each other’s papers in the hope of finding at least a silhouette of the truth. We could have gone on searching forever. But, like Carter, we were in effect sitting right on top of what we sought. Multiculturalism was in the room; it surrounded our every conversation; it wrapped each of our comments. We in fact embodied multiculturalism.



Tommaso Mancini Griffoli (center) and his wife, Deborah, during breakfast on the AUC campus.

About 50 of us current and past SYLFF fellows met in Cairo toward the end of June. We spent almost every waking hour together—and for some this meant not only all day but most the night as well. We flew in from all over Europe, but we represented countries in nearly all continents. Our languages, values, and cultural experiences were worthy of the United Nations General Assembly, while the disciplines we represented came from all across the arts, sciences, and humanities.

When discussing our papers, the broad brush-strokes of the economists were restrained by the methodical approach of the historians. And while the philosophers conceptualized and expressed ideas, the sociologists rooted them in people and the anthropologists did so in cultures. What started out as an overdone topic or a “casual” conversation over lunch soon became multifaceted, with each of our filters of interpretation raising new issues. The artists spoke of sensitivity, the lawyers of structural constraints, the social workers of practicality, the businessmen and businesswomen of creating value. Also, there was no shortage of probing questions. “What are the biases of our approach?” asked a student of gender studies. “How do we encourage entrepreneurial activity?” asked an inhabitant of a former-

communist country. “Why is Cairo so dirty?” queried a western European experiencing a developing country for the first time. Independent of the subject being discussed, these were our points of departure—points that met around the conference’s roundtable, in the world of multiculturalism.

What was more interesting than hearing the specifics of our arguments was to interact with each other—to become aware of new approaches and new points of view. Although we would never have been able to agree on a definition of multiculturalism based on theory, we undeniably felt what multiculturalism is by the simple fact of our being together. Ironically, we spent much of our time discussing multiculturalism—that was the message each of us, like a distant messenger, brought from our homeland and our respective academic disciplines. But in our case, the messengers were truer to the message than was the text of the message itself.

So perhaps that is the lesson to be drawn from our forum in Cairo: drop the message, meet the messengers. Speak less of multiculturalism, but live it, feel it, indulge yourself in it. The Tokyo Foundation should certainly be commended for helping and encouraging us to move closer to that end, and in so doing to enjoy each other’s company. Thanks from all of us. 🌐

FEATURE

Networking sans Frontières

By Sadia Khan

Ms. Khan studied at the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD) in France, where she received a SYLFF fellowship. She has worked in five different countries, and now serves in her home country, Pakistan, as executive director at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Sadia also served on the JREX Selection Committee in 2000 and 2001.

There could not have been a more appropriate setting than Cairo for the second regional forum organized by The Tokyo Foundation, on the theme “Multiculturalism: Capitalizing on the Wealth of Diversity.” Cairo, with its rich cultural heritage and mix of influences from Africa, Asia, and Europe, provided the perfect backdrop for an enriching interaction of more than 45 SYLFF fellows from 25 institutions in Africa and Europe.

The three-day intensive schedule organized by our hosts at The American University in Cairo (AUC) ensured a lively exchange of views and ideas amongst the participants, as well as the opportunities for fellows to forge friendships and to initiate collaborative exchanges. The diverse backgrounds and research interests of the delegates contributed to the richness of the debates and helped to promote crosscultural and interdisciplinary

understanding of the issues under discussion.

The forum was organized as a series of talks, debates, and discussion sessions on a number of sub-themes pre-selected by the organizers. The sub-themes dealt with a wide range of issues, including “Migration, Ethnic, Crosscultural Encounters,” “Globalization and the Clash of Civilizations,” “Financial and Economic Integration,” and “Human Rights and the Environment.” The SYLFF fellows were invited to volunteer for one or more of these sessions and to submit their presentations to the organizers prior to the start of the forum. Nearly all the topics that had been selected generated lively discussions among the fellows, inasmuch as each discussion provided an opportunity for most of the participants to either present findings from their own research or to share their personal and professional experiences.

The participants benefited from two excellent presen-

Sadia Khan and her husband,
Mohammad Ali Haleem.



tations by AUC graduates concerning on-going development projects in Egypt. One presentation highlighted the issues of separated refugee children and the roles of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Egyptian government in assisting such children. The other presentation detailed the experiences of Fat'her Kheir, a nongovernment organization set up to provide microcredit facilities for underprivileged people. The presenters' personal involvement in and commitment to these noteworthy endeavors served to inspire the other fellows, providing valuable lessons in bridging the gap between theory and practice.

The final sessions of the forum were dedicated to recommendations for building the SYLFF network and planning for the next 15 years of the SYLFF Program. The suggestions from the delegates from this second regional forum were added to those that emanated from the North/South America SYLFF Regional Forum, held in April 2003. These suggestions—and those to be generated at the upcoming third regional forum, the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2003—will be deliberated on and finalized at the concluding SYLFF Network Program meeting, to be held in Tokyo in December 2003. The main recommendations made thus far have concerned starting a journal for publication of research by SYLFF fellows, expanding the SYLFF database so as to encourage on-line collaboration among fellows, promoting national associations of SYLFF fellows, and continuing to hold regional forums so as to facilitate interaction and dialogue among SYLFF fellows.

On the final day, the delegates were asked to vote for their representatives to the next regional forum, in Chiang Mai, and the final meeting in Tokyo. Barbara Havelkova was chosen as the representative to the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum to be held at Chiang Mai University in October. Felix Boellmann, Loukas Spanos, and Rozenda Hendrickse were selected as the representatives to the network-wide meeting to be held in Tokyo in December of this year.

As a result of the generosity of The Tokyo Foundation, the warm hospitality of our hosts at the AUC, and the enthusiastic participation of the fellows, the forum could not have been anything but a resounding success. Sawsan Mardini, the main coordinator for the event, and her team of dedicated volunteers, including Hany Abdelkawi, Jasmine Moussa, Ahmed Samir, Justin Whitten, and Melissa Wise, worked around the clock to make our stay comfortable and enjoyable. I am sure that it must have been an uphill task for them to keep up with the individual demands and expectations of a group as diverse as ours was. However, Sawsan Mardini and her team put up with our quirks with calmness, dignity, and good humor. We could not have wished for

more-hospitable hosts or more-fun-loving guides to the evening activities in Cairo.

The trip to Khan el-Khalili and the Naguib Mahfouz café, the dinner cruise on the Nile, the trip to the Pyramids in Giza, and, for some of us, the optional trip to Alexandria at the end of the forum, were organized to perfection, as were the main events of the forum per se. On the final evening of the forum, the participants were treated to a musical performance by a number of SYLFF fellows, including one from The Juilliard School, three members of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, and a fellow from the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris. Sharing these unique moments with a group of dynamic and talented young leaders made these evenings even more special for all present. There is no doubt in my mind that these shared memories will result in lasting bonds among us. Reunions are already being planned, and friendships formed during the three days of intensive discussions and interaction are being cemented through continuous exchanges via cyberspace.

However, the end of such an event must be followed by constructive self-appraisal. Did we as a group achieve what we set out to achieve? Did we as individuals contribute to the forum as much as we wanted to contribute (or at least what our nomination papers said we would contribute!)? My initial reaction was in the affirmative. However, the longer I ponder, the more I wonder whether the forum (1) raised more questions than it answered, (2) skirted a number of important issues without facing them head-on, and (3) was more a lesson in diplomacy and tact than it was about leadership. Perhaps I am being a bit unfair, but I do believe that mere self-praise can lead to complacency and can hamper further progress. My own stated reason for attending the forum was to try to reach out to a group of people who would share my concerns about our increasingly polarized world. I believe that the objectives of the SYLFF Program in fostering greater understanding and goodwill among members of different cultures has become all the more pertinent in light of the events of recent years. The events of September 11, 2001, have served to undermine years of concerted effort by institutions such as The Tokyo Foundation to bridge the gap between various cultures and religions around the world. Tolerance has given way to mistrust, and cultural diversity is seen as a threat rather than as something to be nurtured. Therefore, the need to have an open dialogue on the value of cultural diversity is greater now than it was ever before. Sadly, none of these issues were openly discussed at the forum.


What I did appreciate, however, was the opportunity as a Pakistani national to represent my alumni institute in France at a forum for Africa and Europe. The efforts of various countries in the war against terrorism, while laudable and commendable, have also had the unintentional effect of alienating a group of nations based on their religious and cultural beliefs. People like me who previously prided themselves on being “citizens of the world” have suddenly found themselves viewed with mistrust as Asians and Muslims and their mobility curtailed by new laws and regulations. It no longer matters what our own personal views and opinions are. We are now to be judged solely by the newfound religious identity thrust upon us by those unable to appreciate our individuality. It was therefore refreshing to be asked to represent France without regard to race, color, or religion, and to be appreciated as an individual contributor to the forum. Similarly, Maria Abigail Carpio, originally from the Philippines, represented her university in Germany, and Kamrul Hossain, from Bangladesh, represented his university in Finland. This medley of backgrounds and experiences provided the perfect blend for a discussion on multiculturalism.

I sincerely believe that holding more similar forums under the sponsorship of SYLFF would be one of the more effective ways of fulfilling SYLFF’s goal of “nurturing future leaders who will transcend the geopolitical, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries and actively participate in the world community for peace and well-being of humankind.” I therefore wish to present some suggestions for making these forums even more useful and more valuable for future participants.

1. Solicitation from the participants of suggestions for sub-

themes topics should be made at an earlier stage, so as to better determine the participants’ respective interests.

2. The forums should not only help to identify areas of mutual concern, but also should provide recommendations for overcoming impediments to greater cultural understanding.
3. Controversy should be generated through the choice of debate topics, because nothing brings out leadership potential more than the ability to handle conflict.
4. Greater focus should be placed on on-going development projects, so as to encourage collaborative initiatives among fellows.
5. Visual and performing arts should be given more representation, so as to encourage greater disciplinary diversity among SYLFF fellows.
6. A program of continuing in-person interactions among SYLFF fellows should be encouraged through national or regional forums, because the bonds formed through shared experiences are often stronger than those forged via cyberspace.

It is clear from the e-mail exchanges that have taken place after we returned to our respective homes that the regional forum in Egypt made lasting impressions in our minds and in our hearts. Perhaps the most valuable lesson that I learned is that despite the veneer of cultural differences, our hearts all beat with a similar pulse. All that is necessary to find the commonalities that make up our collective psyche is just to look closely enough. When participating in these international forums, one therefore needs to capitalize on the wealth of diversity while discovering the commonality within. For that, we thank you, SYLFF, for letting us embark on this journey of discovery together in Cairo in June 2003. 

FEATURE

SYLFF Music and Minds in Cairo

By Patrick Kabanda

A native of Uganda, East Africa, Mr. Kabanda is a SYLFF fellow who will soon complete organ studies at The Juilliard School in New York City. He performed, together with musicians from other SYLFF institutions in Europe, at the All Saints’ Cathedral in Cairo during the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum. He has also performed in various countries in East Africa and Europe, as well as in the United States.

I first heard about Egypt in my geography classes in Uganda, the location of Lake Victoria, one of the sources of the Nile River, the source of prosperity for Egyptians. This river played a major role in the great Egyptian civilization of ancient times, and it has inspired creativity in many forms of art. As a musician, I was delighted to discover that Egyptians sang special hymns to the river. One of those hymns, probably written c.1550–c.1069 B.C., is:

Hail to thee, O Nile, that issues from the earth
And comes to keep Egypt alive!

He who waters the meadows that Ra created.

I had seen the source of the Nile in Uganda, but I had never dreamed of going to Cairo, where this majestic river flows into the Mediterranean. My heart danced with joy when I was asked to represent The Juilliard School in the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum that was held in Egypt on June 22–26. I could not wait to see



SYLFF Musicians after the concert at the All Saints' Cathedral: (from left to right) Patrick Kabanda (pipe organist), Sandor Geza Javorkai (violinist), Ekaterina Doubkova (pianist), Alexandra Grot-Mkrtumyan (flutist), and Adam Javorkai (cellist).

the country in which the Nile is associated with life, and to do something unusual—to perform organ music in a predominantly Muslim country. I arrived in Cairo on June 21 and, surprisingly, I found Egyptians somewhat similar to Ugandans—they, too, are very friendly.

On June 23, SYLFF fellows from various countries and scholarly disciplines began discussing the theme “Multiculturalism: Capitalizing on the Wealth of Diversity” at The American University in Cairo (AUC). I attended two discussions that did not concern music, but somehow I found a connection to my field.

The first session, “Migration, Ethnic, and Cross-Cultural Encounters,” threw light on the infusion of talent in different cultures as they meet. Because music is one of the unique features of each culture, creative growth is greatly enhanced when different musical traditions are blended through intercultural exchanges.

During the second session, on “Financial and Economic Integration,” I discovered that giving only aid to poor countries bothered both me and some other participants. In my view, that is analogous to spoon-feeding musical concepts and technique training to a music student. The result is that a student has difficulty in growing because of not being shown how to advance without a teacher.

One of the last sessions held on June 23 was entitled “Language and Communication—The Role of Music as Communication.” I was privileged to be one of the discussion leaders for that session. My colleague, flutist Alexandra Grot-Mkrtumyan, was the other discussant, and Dr. Jared Critchfield was the moderator. The attendees included Ellen Mashiko and Rieko Harue of The Tokyo Foundation, Tommaso Mancini Griffoli of the University of Geneva, and Jasmine Moussa, one of the forum coordinators and a student at AUC. I began by asking: “What is music?” All of the answers in one way or another described music as a universal language.

As a universal language, music can play a big role in motivating all people, especially the disadvantaged. Music, with its power to communicate directly to the soul, often has a great impact on our lives. To perform music in a great many societies—that is, to expose different societies to various types of music—is a powerful way to inspire humanity. Music also is like a medicine, having great healing power. Colleagues of mine who have had the chance to perform for the sick always tell me how good they feel when they see how their music uplifts the afflicted.

Other ideas that were discussed concerned what can be done to uphold dying forms of classical music; how

to present live music performances to audiences in remote areas; how to promote new music, improvisation, and composition; and how to infuse various musical cultures into different societies. The advantages and disadvantages of music technology, especially in CD recordings, also were discussed.

In addition, I was asked how music is used for communication in Africa. In response, I gave an example of a drum pattern that is played to waken people in the morning. In regard to this, Tommaso Mancini Griffoli provoked much laughter when he asked, “But what if the drummer oversleeps. Who wakes him up?” Well, the drummer rarely oversleeps!

During that discussion, our session was briefly visited by Dr. Tim Sullivan, provost of AUC, and Ms. Sawzan Mardini, forum coordinator and international graduate program coordinator at AUC, both of whom briefly stressed the importance of music in communication. Related to this, I believe that because music is an international language, we should not regard it as mere entertainment, but rather as an art essential for human survival. We need to have more musical studies in our schools, to make it possible for people from all strata of society to attend a wide variety of musical performances, to provide funding for musical programs, and for all of us to appreciate music as deeply as possible.


June 24 was my first day of serious practicing. But before I could play through my program, a mechanical problem on the organ had to be fixed. Because organ technicians are rare in Egypt, a piano tuner was brought in to deal with the problem. However, he had no previous experience fixing organs, and it took us all morning to solve the problem. When I resumed practicing, a film crew making a documentary about refugees at the cathedral asked me to play more softly, which I did; but they then suggested that I should use earphones. I laughed, but then I realized that the public needs to be educated more about pipe organs—there does not yet exist technology that enables headphones to be connected to a pipe organ so that only the person playing it will hear its sound.

This forum was unique because it was the first time that performers from different music schools in the SYLFF program performed together. Russian pianist Ekaterina Doubkova and the two Hungarian brothers, Sandor Javorkai, violinist, and Adam Javorkai, cellist, represented the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria; Russian flutist Alexandra Grot-Mkrtumyan, represented the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, in France; and I was from Juilliard, in the United States. Dr. Ashraf Fouad, a Juilliard alumnus, composer, and head of the Music Department at AUC, helped to put our program together.

The concert took place on June 25, at 7:30 p.m., in All Saints' Cathedral. This cathedral serves as a "mother church" to the vast Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The cathedral also runs a refugee program and other ministry service programs for the needy. Because the SYLFF program is committed to humanitarianism, refugees and other disadvantaged people were invited to sell their goods on the cathedral terrace before and after the concert. Various products for sale included bags, candleholders, and necklaces from several sources: Tukul Crafts, a project conducted by Refuge Egypt; the Boulac Centre, which focuses on aiding unemployed Egyptian women; The Vocational Training Centre for the Deaf; Shams El Birr Society for the Disabled, an aid center for the disabled and blind; the Menouf Social Centre; the Prison Ministry; and Fat'her Kheir, which provides loans for women and also operates an arts and crafts workshop.

Inasmuch as the concert was held in the cathedral because it has an organ, I was asked to begin and to end the program. I began with Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546. This was followed by Handel's Passacaglia for Violin and Cello in G Minor (arr. by Halvorsen), performed by Sandor Javorkai (violin) and Adam Javorkai (cello). Pianist Ekaterina Doubkova ended the first half of the program with Rachmaninoff's Corelli Variations for Piano.

The second half began with flutist Alexandra Grot-Mkrtumyan playing Debussy's *Syrinx*. Then Ms. Grot-Mkrtumyan and pianist Ekaterina Doubkova played a duet, Franz Doppler's *Phataisie Pastorale Hongroise*, op. 26. There followed another duet by Sandor and Adam Javorkai, who played the *Adagio and Maestoso e Largamente—Presto* from Kodaly's *Duo for Violin and Cello* op. 7. The concert ended with Reubke's *Adagio and Fugue in C Minor* (from the 94th Psalm). I was fortunate to be able to play with these impeccable musicians. Our musical offerings energized the audience, although the demanding pedal work in Reubke's fugue, coupled with Cairo's warm weather, left me soaked with perspiration.

Due to my practice schedule, I missed the general tour to the pyramids, so I went on my own to see those wonders of the world. I was captivated and inspired by those massive structures. If ancient Egyptians could take delight in such extraordinary endeavors, our generation should be able to take on the challenge of creating a world of harmony and prosperity. Let us utilize our talents to eradicate poverty, diseases, hunger, political instabilities, and other factors that hinder humanity from flourishing. Just as the Nile River has provided for Egyptians, let the SYLFF family become a great river contributing to the advancement of the world's disadvantaged peoples. 

FEATURE

The Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum in Brief

By Sawsan Mardini

Ms. Mardini is the coordinator of the International Graduate Program, Office of Graduate Studies and Research at The American University in Cairo (AUC). She played a major role in AUC's hosting of the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum. She was the key figure in organizing and administering the entire forum, making it a great success. The Scholarship Division expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Mardini and her colleagues.

Attending the North/South America SYLFF Regional Forum (April 3–5) was an eye opener on how to organize a successful forum. That experience made the role of hosting the second SYLFF Regional Forum, for Africa/Europe, easier for us than hosting the first forum was for our colleagues, Dr. David Platt and his team from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. Being first is never easy, but the Texans produced a model event.

Provost Tim Sullivan and I were in charge of organizing the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum, held June 22–26 at The American University in Cairo. All we had to do was to follow the Texas plan—prepare the agenda,

call for volunteers for presentations and debates, involve faculty as moderators, schedule long sessions for dialogue and discussions—and have lots of energy.

Planning a conference for 60 participants turned out to be a delightful challenge that, miraculously, went smoothly. Our team of miracle workers included five efficient and energetic AUC student coordinators (Jasmine, Ahmed, Melissa, Hany, and Justin), who worked to provide a structure to enable delegates to build a network and to plan for the future of the SYLFF program.

Every effort was made to create an environment that allowed participants to enjoy interacting with each other. The first 30 participants to arrive became acquainted at

an informal setting on the Nile River and established links before the official opening. Searing daytime temperatures in Cairo meant that the first sightseeing activity was held in the evening of the first day. This helped participants to break (or melt!) the ice early on. By the second sightseeing activity on the last day, participants knew each other well.


Forum participants discussed topics such as multiculturalism, the role of human capital in sustainable development, and leadership. Most of the latter part of the Forum focused on how to create and sustain linkages among SYLFF fellows and on planning for the future. Discussions were typically lively and thought-provoking, and a large number of interesting suggestions were made regarding future SYLFF Program activities.

In the planning stage, the provost decided that we did not want to show participants only the tourist side of Cairo; we wanted them to be aware that they were in a developing country. With that in mind, forum bags came from Tukul Crafts, a self-sustaining project that offers training, skills development, and income opportunities for Sudanese refugees in Cairo. In addition, AUCians who work in development projects were invited to participate. Laura Maxwell and Aya Elhilaly spoke on “Separated Refugee Children: The Role of UNHCR and the Egyptian Government,” and Yasmina Abou Youssef spoke about an organization of young Egyptian volunteers who provide microcredit to poor women in the Mukkattam Hills section of Cairo.

According to Barbara Havelkova of Charles University, Czech Republic, the opportunity to see development the-

ories being applied in practical ways was one of the most stimulating aspects of the forum. Dr. Jan Persens, SYLFF administrator from the University of the Western Cape, invited Laura and Aya to research refugee camps in South Africa, and Hallvard Notaker, from the University of Oslo, initiated the collecting of funds for the two projects. After only three days in Egypt, forum participants were already making a difference in people’s lives!

One unique aspect of the Africa/Europe Forum was the first-ever SYLFF fellows concert. Held at All Saints’ Cathedral in Cairo, the concert featured talented fellows from The Juilliard School in New York (pipe-organist Patrick Kabanda), the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna (pianist Ekaterina Doubkova, violinist Sandor Geza Javorkai, and cellist Adam Javorkai), and the Conservatoire national superieur de musique et de danse de Paris (flutist Alexandra Grot-Mkrtumyan). The concert was preceded by a charity crafts sale and was concluded with an impromptu jazz performance at dinner: AUC Professor of Economics Dr. Sam Green played the organ, joining Sandor, Adam, and Alexandra.

Most important for the success of the Africa/Europe Forum was the positive attitude of the diverse and interesting young scholars who gathered here. For many, this was their first encounter with the Middle East. With gratitude for all that made this a joyful event, and with best wishes and much confidence, we pass the torch to our colleagues in Chiang Mai University in Thailand, who will host the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum (October 19–23, 2003). 

UPDATE

The Joint Research/Exchange (JREX) Program, established in 1994, has been terminated with the final evaluation committee meeting, which was held in July. This issue features articles by two persons who were involved in the final stages of the program. Dr. Peter Scheid, professor and former head of the Institute for Physiology at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, served as the advisor to the JREX Selection Committee during the years 2000–2003. Radoslaw (“Radek”) Rybkowski, who teaches at the Center for American Studies at Jagiellonian University in Poland, served as a committee member in 2002 and 2003. They share their experiences and observations regarding the JREX Program and the JREX Selection/Evaluation Committee.

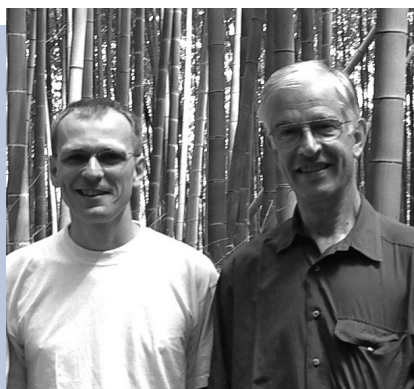
Fond Memories of the JREX Program and JREX Selection Committees

By Peter Scheid

During the last four years, I have had the privilege of serving as the advisor to the JREX Selection Committee (JREX SC). This has given me great pleasure and satisfaction, and I would like to share with you, the readers of *The SYLFF*

Newsletter, some of my very personal experiences.

I should admit from the beginning that my area of expertise lies somewhat outside the range of subject areas that generally fall within the scope of the SYLFF Program, inasmuch as I am a medical doctor and am



Peter Scheid (right) and Radoslaw Rybkowski in a bamboo garden in Kyoto.

active in basic physiological research. However, I have served as chairman of the SYLFF Steering Committee of our university from the start of its SYLFF Program in 1996. I do not think that the seeming remoteness of my area of expertise has seriously hampered my work as a JREX advisor, as I will explain later.

Why has my work for the JREX Program given me so much satisfaction and pleasure? First, the JREX Program itself. It encourages graduate students at SYLFF institutions to get together with others in their own institution, and, more important, with those in other institutions, hopefully outside their own country, to submit a proposal for joint research—focusing on the academic aspects of a given problem—or for *collaborative exchange*—action-oriented activities. Each year, the Scholarship Division has typically received some 100 such proposals, which have touched on a multitude of subjects in the humanities, including such topics as fighting AIDS in Africa, an analysis of the economic situation in China, preservation of traditions in Mongolia, and political treaties in Europe. The 80 or so proposals, that remained after preliminary screening of proposals by the Scholarship Division were sent to the five members of the JREX Selection Committee (and the advisor) in preparation for a meeting to be held in Tokyo, typically toward the end of July. I enjoyed reading the proposals. Although they were not always easy to understand—largely due to, understandably, language problems or differences in the systems of logic in different cultures, their content was in most cases extremely interesting. And this was particularly so for me, because they widened my horizons into so many new areas in which problems must be considered and remedies sought. So, this is the first reason why my work on the JREX Program gave me so much pleasure.

Second, the JREX SC meetings themselves. Each selection committee had only three full working days to thoroughly consider all of the 80 or so proposals and to select the best ones. I served as the chairperson for these meetings, and I believe that the great difference between my field of specialization and those of the papers being considered was not a negative factor. It gave me the neutrality to gently moderate the discussion and to keep the

ever-passing time in mind, without being seriously engaged in the discussions.

The members of the committee are SYLFF fellows who are just starting their careers. I have worked with four different selection committees. One attribute in particular was common to them all: a non-compromised devotion to their fields of expertise and to their responsibilities as JREX SC members. But their similarity ended there. What a variety of characters, of temperaments, of logical capabilities! All that I can say is that I would not have liked to have missed seeing any one of them. It is true that they differed in terms of their respective fields of expertise, as well as in the way they would express their opinions; some were rather quiet, while others tended to be pugnacious. But all that created an atmosphere and a spirit of pure devotion to the obligation of deciding which applications were the best. And, oddly enough, after sometimes long and intense fighting, there was a good deal of harmony and agreement when it came to the final vote on a given proposal. And the harmony among the group increased from day to day, from lunchtime to dinner—and often long into the night (as I was told).

In summary, there were three aspects of the work for JREX that I loved. One was that I learned about so many problems in areas usually referred to as the social sciences and humanities. I was surprised about some of the problems, and I was sometimes shocked at how badly we people can treat each other and how much we harm the natural environment. But, at the same time, it was a fantastic experience to see the young applicants proposing remedies and working hard for the betterment of humankind and Earth itself.

The second aspect concerned working with the selection committees themselves. Democracy requires that we have a fundamental understanding of how to engage in discussions—even disputes or arguments—with those who hold views different from one's own, and that we be able to accept the differing views of our peers. It is also necessary for us to realize that listening is more important than talking, that to learn from a discussion is much superior to starting a discussion with a predetermined opinion, and that one can never be defeated if a discussion is rational and engaged in open-mindedly. I found that the JREX SC members had such an understanding, and I so I could only hope that in my work with them I could help them gain more experience and more confidence in regard to these important aspects. I feel that for these young people on the JREX SC the week in Tokyo was more than just pure work of deciding which papers were the best; it was in the true and best sense a seminar on leadership qualities for people whom I regard and respect as upcoming leaders in their respective fields.



Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto (photo by Zeng Gang, a member of the JREX Selection Committee).

For me it was always a great pleasure to again meet the SC members the following year, when they gathered together to review the reports of the projects they had selected the year before and to determine which reports were best and might deserve an Award of Excellence or be accepted for publication in the SYLFF Working Paper series. Here again, the SC members were creatively and constructively critical when considering the reports; and it was rewarding to learn how much of the discussion of the previous year was still in their minds.

What is the third reason that I loved my work for JREX? My answer: the lovely people at the Scholarship

Division itself. Ellen Mashiko has gathered a group of wonderful people who are not only devoted and lovely, but who work at the highest level of professionalism in preparing and conducting the meetings. Everything is so well organized that during the meetings we could always concentrate on just the work itself, and at the rich social programs we could enjoy ourselves thoroughly in a wonderfully relaxed environment.

In this regard, one very important event is the excursion for both the incoming (the first year) and outgoing (the second year) committee members. The Scholarship Division deserves high praise for organizing and implementing an excellent program that includes taking the SC members (and the committee's advisor) to visit special places in and around both Tokyo and the old imperial city of Kyoto. This excursion serves not only as an important introduction to old yet still-important elements of Japanese culture; these multi-day trips are also extremely important in enabling the participants to learn more about themselves and to deepen friendships that will, I am sure, last for a long time—hopefully for at least one lifetime. Once a member of the SYLFF family, you will remain a member of the family forever.

I want to thank you, my friends on the selection committees as well as my friends at the Scholarship Division, for having given me the opportunity to work with you. 🌐

UPDATE

Discussing without Quarreling: The JREX Way to Decision-making

By Radoslaw Rybkowski

I feel very emotional while writing these parting words, because not only have I completed my duties (and privileges) as a member of the Joint Research/Exchange Program Selection Committee (JREX SC), but also because the JREX Program itself will cease to exist when the final SYLFF Working Paper is published later this year. Serving on the committee was one of the most challenging experiences in my life. I am still at the beginning of my academic career, but I am sure that all my future work will be influenced by my service as a member of the JREX Selection Committee.

Working with the other committee members in Tokyo was very stimulating, as well as sometimes surprising or even shocking in a sense, though in a very positive way. In fact, I experienced my first shock even before beginning my work on the committee. When going down the



JREX Selection Committee members discuss papers at The Tokyo Foundation.

steps from the plane on the tarmac upon arriving in Japan, I was taken aback by the high temperature and high humidity—conditions very unlike those in my home country, Poland.

Later, after the committee work began, I was quite often astonished by the high quality of the applications, by the discussions with other committee members, and by the hospitality of our hosts from The Tokyo Foundation. Working with other people during both the initial report-selection meeting and then the report-evaluation meeting was extremely enriching in two ways.

First, I found the idea of joint-research or exchange programs to be very stimulating. In the summer of 2002 our committee had to select the most promising projects from almost 130 applications. We dealt with many different issues: water resources in Africa, drug problems in Asia, social problems in the United States, and gender issues in Europe—just to mention a few that give a hint of the wide diversity we encountered. What I found especially surprising, however, was that among the great variety of projects the most interesting ones usually were based on effective collaboration. This was even more obvious when we met the next year to consider the final reports that we had selected the previous year. The more intensive the collaboration was, and the more interdisciplinary and more international a team was, the more interesting the results were.

This proves that cooperation, most preferably international in scope, is vital for the further development of researchers, students, and professors. It also confirms that the core idea of the JREX Program was well-conceived. Reading the applications and final reports proved that the SYLFF Program has been a great success worldwide. We saw proposals prepared by persons having vision and passion, two qualities typical of every leader. So, being a member of the great SYLFF family, I could be proud of my colleagues' willingness to change the world, even though the projects we selected seem to be such small steps in that direction.


Evaluating someone's work was only part of the great experience of being a Selection Committee member. To my great surprise, I found that working with other members could be extremely enriching.

We discussed many things in 2002 and this past summer, but we never quarreled (probably thanks to the perfect presiding of Professor Peter Scheid). Members of previous Selection Committees advised us that we should not be afraid of completely changing from our first opinion about a project, and that we should not conclude that a particular project deserves to be selected until we have examined the materials relating to all the projects. This turned out to be good

advice, because sometimes I changed my opinion completely after hearing my colleagues' comments. Of course, I also noticed that sometimes they similarly changed their opinions after hearing my remarks. That was the second great way that being a member of the JREX Selection Committee was enriching for me. I, like all the others, learned that no opinion should ever be final, and that one should listen very carefully to others.

We were from four different continents: North America, South America, Asia, and Europe. But in seemingly just an instant we were able to perform our work effectively. In spite of our different cultural backgrounds, we started to collaborate. Indeed, cultural diversity seemed to be one of the fundamental reasons for the success of the committee and of the JREX Program as a whole. All of us committee members were able to use our respective educational backgrounds, traditions, and cultures as assets, and we could select what seemed to us to be the best projects in the world, not just only in one of the regions.

Listening to the other members broadened my own horizons. I found that some aspects of certain projects, and then of certain reports, were more important to the other committee members than they initially were to me. So I examined the documents once again, and very often I could not but agree with my colleagues. This cultural diversity could be felt not only during our work but also later, when we were touring Japan. Seeing the beauty of the country, meeting Japanese people, visiting temples and shrines, and last but not least—engaging in discussions with our friends from The Tokyo Foundation—helped us to understand that all people are very different. But, at the same time, all of the people connected with the SYLFF Program care very much about the quality of the research and about education in general. My visit to Japan to serve as a member of the JREX Selection Committee was a perfect illustration of “capitalizing on the wealth of diversity,” which is the overall theme of the regional forums being held this year in Austin, Cairo, and Chiang Mai.

Had I not served on the JREX Selection Committee I would be a different person. Without this experience my work at the university, especially as the person responsible for student affairs, would be of lesser quality. And having seen how profitable joint research by students from SYLFF-endowed institutions can be, I will be always eager to initiate, promote, and support such activities. 

Introducing the Newest SYLFF-Endowed Institutions

In June 2003, SYLFF endowments were presented to Jadavpur University (Kolkata) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi) in India. The universities became the 67th and 68th universities, respectively, in 45 countries, to receive SYLFF endowments.

Jadavpur University, in Kolkata (Calcutta), was established in 1955 by the Government of West Bengal, but its history as an institution of higher learning began in 1910, when the Society for the Promotion of Technical Education in Bengal founded the Bengal Technical Institute, which later became the College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal, the predecessor of the current university. Jadavpur University is a unitary university that offers undergraduate and graduate programs in the fields of science, engineering, social sciences, and humanities. The university has been playing a pioneering role in introducing teaching and research in “nonconventional” (interdisciplinary, innovative) areas. The current enrollment consists of approximately 5,200 undergraduate students, 2,900 master’s and M.Phil. students, and 1,400 Ph.D. students. The university is designated by India’s University Grant Commission (UGC) as one of five universities that have been granted the status of University with Potential for Excellence. The SYLFF fellowships will be awarded to master’s, M.Phil., and Ph.D. students at Jadavpur University whose studies and research address an issue relevant to contemporary Indian society, within the parameters of the theme “Tradition, Social Change and Sustainable Development.” The SYLFF contact person is Dr. Joyashree Roy, professor of economics and director of the SYLFF Program (e-mail address: jroy@cal2.vsnl.net.in). The university’s website can



Aurobindo Administration Building, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.

be accessed at www.jadavpur.edu.


Jawaharlal Nehru University, in New Delhi, was established in 1969. It is a unitary university that focuses on graduate-level education and research. Undergraduate courses are offered only in foreign languages, at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies. Approximately 3,500 students are enrolled in the university. In 2001, the university was recognized as a University with Potential for Excellence by India’s UGC. Its SYLFF Program will focus on the theme “Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Socioeconomic, Political and Cultural Dimensions of Human Development” and will support M.Phil. and Ph.D. students enrolled in



School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.

schools and centers in the fields of humanities and social sciences. These include the School of Social Sciences, School of International Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Center for the Study of Law and Governance, and Center for Sanskrit Studies. The SYLFF contact persons are Professor Balveer Arora, rector (e-mail address: rector_1@mail.jnu.ac.in), and Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, coordinator (evaluation) (e-mail address: coordinator02@yahoo.com). The university’s website can be accessed at www.jnu.ac.in.

SYLFF Award ceremonies will be held at Jadavpur University and Jawaharlal Nehru University on November 12 and 14, 2003, respectively. Yohei Sasakawa, president of The Nippon Foundation, and representatives of The Tokyo Foundation will be present at the ceremonies.

Please welcome both universities to the SYLFF network. 

SPOTLIGHT

University of Coimbra Celebrates 10th Anniversary as SYLFF Institution

Located approximately 200 kilometers (125 miles) northeast of Lisbon, the University of Coimbra is one of the oldest universities in Europe, having been established in 1290. More than 20,000 students are enrolled at Coimbra, in eight faculties: economics, law, letters, medicine, pharmacy, psychology and educational sciences, sciences and technology, and sports sciences and physical education.

The 46th SYLFF endowment was presented to the university in 1993. Since then, the SYLFF Program at Coimbra has supported the education of graduate students who are enrolled in master's programs in geography, European economics, and financial economics, and who have high leadership potential. Approximately 100 graduate students have been awarded SYLFF fellowships over the past decade.

On June 30, 2003, the university held a SYLFF 10th-anniversary ceremony at Saint Marcos Palace, a beautiful palace owned by the university. Among the approximately 40 people in attendance was a graduated SYLFF fellow who had driven 500 kilometers to attend the ceremony. The event began with welcoming remarks by the new chairperson of the SYLFF Steering Committee, Professor Cristina Robalo Cordeiro. Speeches were then given by Mr. Hideichiro Hamanaka, ambassador of Japan; Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, president of The Nippon Foundation; Dr. Joao Luis Fernandes, a representative of the SYLFF fellows; and Professor Fernando Seabra Santos, the university's rector. Mr. Sasakawa presented certificates of fellowships to 7 students who recently had been awarded fellowships for the 2003–2004 academic year. The attendees were then taken on a short tour of the historic palace, enjoying its beauty.

After the ceremony and a luncheon, Ellen Mashiko and Rieko Harue of The Tokyo Foundation's Scholarship Division met with 16 fellows to introduce and explain the new SYLFF initiatives, encouraging the fellows to participate in these new activities as much as possible. The fellows were enthusiastic, and they showed strong interest in the new initiatives. At the end of the meeting,



The main building on the University of Coimbra campus.



Rector Fernando Seabra Santos giving a speech, flanked by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa (right), president of The Nippon Foundation, and His Excellency Hideichiro Hamanaka, Japan's ambassador to Portugal.

two fellows volunteered to start a SYLFF fellows association at the University of Coimbra.

On the following day, Ellen and Rieko attended a meeting of the SYLFF Steering Committee, engaging in fruitful discussions on a variety of issues, such as better investment options for the SYLFF endowment fund, the memorandum of understanding and the recent addendum thereto, and plans for the Coimbra SYLFF fellowship program.

The Scholarship Division extends its appreciation to the rector and the members of the SYLFF Steering Committee at the University of Coimbra, particularly Dr. Filomena Marques de Carvalho, who organized the 10th-anniversary ceremony. 🌐



Mr. Sasakawa presenting a SYLFF Fellowship certificate to a newly selected student. Standing next to Mr. Sasakawa is Prof. Cristina Robalo Cordeiro, chairperson of the university's SYLFF Steering Committee.

Educating the Next Generation for a Democratic Africa: The Alliance for Democracy in Africa

By Madi Touray

Dr. Madi Touray received a SYLFF Fellowship in 1997 while obtaining a Ph.D. at Howard University in the United States. Inspired by the vision and life of the late Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, he established the Alliance for Democracy in Africa (ADA) in 2000, where he now serves as secretary-general. Madi shares with us the background and activities of the ADA.

Background

The background for establishing the Alliance for Democracy in Africa is rooted in my personal history and educational experiences. In regard to personal history, I come from a family that has a long history of community service focusing on, but not limited to, conflict resolution and peace building in Sutukoba, The Gambia, in West Africa.

My grandparents and parents were very successful farmers in our community, and they actively helped less-fortunate members of the community. They also participated in conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution, reconciliation, and peace-building exercises in Sutukoba, our village. With that family background, and through the encouragement and the training I received from my grandparents and parents, I have always believed that it is my duty to follow in their footsteps.

I accordingly decided early on that after completing my education I would create an organization that would benefit not just the people of Sutukoba, which has a population of about 15,000, but the entire continent of Africa. I became more motivated to do this when I was awarded a SYLFF Fellowship in May 1997, while at Howard University.

After being awarded the fellowship, I began to learn more about the late Ryoichi Sasakawa, and I became more and more convinced that I must try to be like him. On May 8, 1999, during my graduation ceremony at Howard University, I decided that I would create an organization to be called the Alliance for Democracy in Africa. I felt that in order to bring about meaningful economic, social, and political development in Africa, the continent must first of all constitute a peaceful and stable environment. The existing civil wars, political instability, and threats of civil wars were not conducive to the positive developments I had in mind.

Realizing that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me, acting alone, to achieve the results I envisioned, I sought the assistance of some of my former professors and friends. I am pleased to say that my former professors at Howard University agreed to serve on the board of directors of the organization that I proposed. They and others worked with me and helped to establish the Alliance for Democracy in Africa, Inc. (ADA), which came into existence as a not-for-profit organization (NPO) in May 2000 in Washington, D.C.

However, creating the ADA was more difficult than I had initially expected that to be. Among the challenges that I faced in launching the organization was raising the funds necessary to pay for the various legal procedures and other costs incurred in establishing an NPO.



Participants in the ADA's International Conference 2003—"Democracy and Human Development in Africa"—which took place August 5–9, 2003, in The Gambia.

Most of the Africans whom I knew in the United States did not have the financial resources to be able to contribute to this endeavor, and no significant financial aid came from any other sources. In order to raise money to pay the corporation registration fees and so on, I worked as a house painter for an entire week. I soon realized that in order to make the ADA a reality I would have to rely on my own resources and to be strong enough to withstand the difficulties that would lie ahead in creating and running an organization while having virtually no money to start with. Both my father and mother had died before I completed my education at Howard University, and so they were not present to extend the support that they gladly would have provided had they been alive. Fortunately, my grandmother was still alive, and she believed in me and my vision, and she gave the encouragement and moral support that greatly helped me to overcome the difficulties I encountered.

ADA's Mission and Activities

The Alliance for Democracy in Africa is an independent, not-for-profit, nongovernmental, tax-exempt, internationally-oriented organization that is dedicated to promoting democracy by encouraging Africans, particularly women and children, to internalize democratic values and to apply them in their societies. The organization works with advocates of democracy to end conflict and to promote peaceful political change in Africa.

The ADA's headquarters are located in the premises of the African Studies Department of Howard University. The ADA has also established a West Africa Regional Office in The Gambia, and a chapter in Oban, Scotland.

The ADA is a membership organization. At present, its members are from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Spain, Sweden, the United


Kingdom, the United States, and many African countries. Most of our funds come from membership dues, which are only US\$25 per year. We also engage in fund-raising efforts to support our projects. Both last year and this year we were fortunate enough to have received grants from the Free Africa Foundation (Washington, D.C.), from Emida International Publishers (Forestville, Maryland, U.S.A.), and from the Embassy of Taiwan in The Gambia—all in support of our international conferences: “Democracy in Africa” and “Democracy and Human Development in Africa.” In order to obtain funds in support of our current projects—which include the Women’s Literacy, the ADA Scholarship Fund for High School Students, and the 3rd Annual International Conference on Democracy and Conflict Resolution in Africa (to be held in 2004)—we are now submitting proposals to grant-giving organizations.

In recognition of the wonderful contributions that the SYLFF continues to make in educating young men and women all over the world, the ADA created a scholarship program to honor Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa. It is called the Sasakawa Fellowship for Democracy in Africa. The objectives of this program are to instill the notion of democratic values in African children so that they, as future leaders, will be able and willing to follow and foster the path of democracy, and to help them develop leadership skills.

These scholarships are awarded to high school students based on financial need and good academic stand-

ing. At present, 10 students in the Nyakoi Upper Basic and Sukuta Upper Basic Schools in The Gambia are benefiting from the scholarship program. Most of the students who are being awarded scholarships in The Gambia are boys, because in that nation education for girls is free of charge (In The Gambia, fewer girls attend school than boys, and the government tries to encourage parents to send their daughters to school by not charging school fees for girls). We also plan to establish a similar kind of scholarship program in September 2004 for high school students in Nigeria, and ADA intends to give 15 Sasakawa Fellowships for Democracy in that country, mostly to girl students.

Our dream is that the Alliance for Democracy in Africa will establish regional offices and chapters in every African country, and that every chapter will establish Sasakawa Fellowships for Democracy in Africa to help students to learn democratic values and leadership skills. We believe that Mr. Sasakawa’s investment in young people is a model worth emulating. We believe that to apply that model and to invest in young people in Africa will lead to greater peace and stability, without which the political, economic, and social development that is desired will never be achieved in that part of the world.

For further information, please contact me at maditouray2001@yahoo.com or at ADA’s e-mail address, which is adeafrica@yahoo.com, or visit ADA’s website at www.adeafrica.org. 

SPIN-OFFS

The SYLFF Association of Artists: A New Initiative

By Isabelle Duceux

Ms. Isabelle Duceux is a Ph.D. student in Chinese philosophy at El Colegio de México, where she has received a SYLFF fellowship. She obtained her master’s degree in Chinese philosophy, writing her thesis on an epistemological problem: “Wang Yangming’s Copernican Revolution.” She is also a painter who has shown her works at several exhibitions.

During the past year, SYLFF meetings (the SYLFF Administrators Meeting in Tokyo, and regional forums in Austin and Cairo) have been held on the topics “SYLFF: The Next 15 Years” and “Multiculturalism: Capitalizing on the Wealth of Diversity.” The new SYLFF network that is evolving has two main orientations: the creation of institution-based organizations, and the creation and networking of associations that transcend institutional interests. We can infer from the two regional forums and the already existing institution-based organizations, such as the Greek and Mongolian ones, that there is a great interest in creating networks of SYLFF fellows.

After I returned from the first North/South America SYLFF Regional Forum held in Austin, Texas, in April 2003, I and several SYLFF fellows decided to create a SYLFF fellows association at El Colegio de México. Also, because the arts are one of the concerns of the SYLFF family, I had the idea to develop plans for creat-

ing a network, or an association, of SYLFF artists. This association would provide SYLFF fellows—both graduated and currently enrolled—who are endowed with artistic talents a new way to make their works known.

The main objectives of the association would be the following:

- To publicize the creative work of SYLFF artist-fellows
- To provide opportunities for SYLFF artist-fellows to get together
- To provide opportunities for SYLFF artist-fellows to make their works known to the public


The first step in forming the association will be to create a database of SYLFF artist-fellows. The database would provide a curriculum vitae of each SYLFF fellow, centered on his or her artistic activities, but would also include each one’s academic record, professional activities, and so on.

The second step will be to create a specific website where SYLFF artist-fellows will be able to place samples

of their works to exhibit via the diverse digital media—photo, video, MP3, and so on—that are available through the Web, because these days visual and performing arts can be expressed in multiple ways. The website would include a discussion forum, news, and announcements.

The main goals of the association will be to promote artistic talents by holding exhibits, fairs, concerts, and forums, and to make possible the participation of the SYLFF association of artists in various forums, meetings, or conventions related to SYLFF.

There is no need to stress that such an association of artists would be consistent with the values of the SYLFF Program. Artistic expression is a special way of manifesting the diversity of the peoples of the world, as well as a way to help promote peace. In this sense, one of the main objectives of the association would be to publicize the mission and vision of the SYLFF Program.

Fellows (both artists and non-artists) interested in participating in the project are welcome to contact me at jduceux@colmex.mx. 

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYLFF Prize

On October 1, 2003, the Scholarship Division closed the first call for nominations for the SYLFF Prize, one of the new initiatives launched this year. This new initiative aims to recognize SYLFF fellows who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in line with the fundamental purpose and spirit of the SYLFF Program.

Nomination documents that are received by the Scholarship Division and that meet all the requirements will be forwarded to the members of the SYLFF Prize Selection Committee, an international panel of reviewers, for their review and ranking. The rankings will then be collated, and finalists will be requested to submit essays on a predetermined topic by the end of November. The committee will meet in Tokyo in January 2004 for the final selection of up to three prize winners, who will be notified in February.

Japanese University Faculty Overseas Lecture Program

This program also is administered by the Scholarship Division. Initiated in 1998, this program enables faculty members of Japanese universities to teach overseas and then to apply their experiences at their respective home universities in promoting internationalization upon their return to Japan. If you are interested in hosting a Japanese-university faculty member to teach one or more regular courses in the social sciences or humanities (except for Japanese-language teaching and Japanese-language teaching methodology), visit our website (<http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/prj/jufolp.shtml>) for detailed information. Please note that applications must be submitted by an individual faculty member of a four-year Japanese university. The next deadline for applications is November 1, 2003.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Stage 2 of the SYLFF experiment in creating a viable network of SYLFF fellows was a resounding success.

What was Stage 2? As reported in this issue's articles by Tommaso Mancini Griffoli, Sadia Khan, Patrick Kobanda, and Sawsan Mardini, the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum (Stage 2) was held at The American University in Cairo, June 22–26, 2003, building upon the experience of the North/South America SYLFF Regional Forum (Stage 1), which was held at The University of Texas at Austin, April 3–5 2003 (see *The SYLFF Newsletter*, No. 6).

Why was it a success? The participants fulfilled the purposes of the regional forums—addressing the theme “Multiculturalism: Capitalizing on the Wealth of Diversity,” and engaging in discussions concerning the creation of a viable network of SYLFF fellows, and they met all of the challenges of integrating scholarly discussions with organizational matters. The firsthand report of Stage 1 by Jared Critchfield, representing the North/South America region, and the panel discussion by SYLFF fellows (Simona Cupic, Volker Hecht, and Sadia Khan, who have recently participated in follow-up programs) and SYLFF Program administrators (Carlos Azzoni and Pong-in Rakariyatham, representing the North/South America and Asia/Pacific regions, respectively) served as catalysts that focused the participants' attention on content and process matters relating to the creation of a SYLFF fellows' network, giving rise to a range of ideas.

Moreover, Stage 2 was enriched by the presence of and performances by SYLFF fellows from the Conservatoire national

superieur de musique et de danse de Paris, the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna, and The Juilliard School—the three music conservatories in the SYLFF network. The presence of these musical fellows reminded us that music plays an important role in the SYLFF family; their performances still resonate in our memories.

Where are we headed? Participants in the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum (Stage 3: October 2003, at Chiang Mai University) and the planning meeting for a worldwide SYLFF network (Stage 4: December 2003, in Tokyo) no doubt will meet the challenges of participating in the design and construction of the SYLFF “family house” and deciding how it ought to be used, and perhaps most important, of making the house a “home” for the more than 8,500 fellows and turning the so-called experiment into a sustainable reality.

“. . . I think we are always plural. Not either this or that, but this and that. . . . We always embody in our multiple shifting consciousnesses a convergence of traditions, cultures, [and] histories coming together. . . moving like rivers through us. . . . The point is to look back with insight and without judgment, and know that it is the nature of being in this place . . . of convergence of histories, cultures and ways of thought that there will always be new ways to understand what we are living through and that [we] will never come to a point of rest or of finality in [our] understanding.” (Leila Ahmed, *A Border Passage*, Penguin Books, 1999, pp. 25–26)

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The Nippon Foundation Building – 3rd Floor
1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, Japan
Telephone: +81-3-6229-5503 Facsimile: +81-3-6229-5507
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URL: <http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/>

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SYLFF Institutions

- **Australia**
The University of New South Wales
- **Austria**
University of Music and Dramatic Arts
in Vienna
- **Brazil**
University of São Paulo
- **Bulgaria**
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- **Canada**
York University
- **Chile**
University of Chile
- **China**
Chongqing University
Fudan University
Inner Mongolia University
Jilin University
Lanzhou University
Nanjing University
Peking University
Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan) University
Xinjiang University
Yunnan University
- **Czech Republic**
Charles University
- **Denmark**
University of Copenhagen
- **Egypt**
The American University in Cairo
- **Fiji**
The University of the South Pacific
- **Finland**
University of Helsinki
- **France**
Conservatoire national supérieur de musique
et de danse de Paris
The European Institute of Business
Administration — INSEAD
- **Germany**
Ruhr University Bochum
University of Leipzig
- **Greece**
National and Kapodistrian University of
Athens
- **Hungary**
Hungarian Academy of Sciences*
Debrecen University of Arts and Sciences
*Eötvös Loránd University of Arts and
Sciences*
Pécs University of Arts and Sciences
Szeged University of Arts and Sciences
*University of Economics and State
Administration, Budapest*
- **India**
Jadavpur University
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- **Indonesia**
University of Indonesia
- **Israel**
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- **Italy**
Institute of Political Education "Pedro Arrupe"
- **Japan**
Keio University
Waseda University
- **Jordan**
University of Jordan
- **Kenya**
University of Nairobi
- **Korea**
Korea University
- **Latvia**
University of Latvia
- **Malaysia**
University of Malaya
- **Mexico**
El Colegio de México
- **Mongolia**
Academy of Management
- **New Zealand**
Massey University*
Auckland University
Canterbury University
Lincoln University
Otago University
Victoria University of Wellington
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- **Serbia and Montenegro**
University of Belgrade
- **Slovakia**
Comenius University of Bratislava
- **South Africa**
University of the Western Cape
- **Spain**
University of Deusto
- **Sweden**
Uppsala University
- **Switzerland**
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- **Thailand**
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- **Turkey**
Ankara University
- **United Kingdom**
University of Sussex
- **USA**
Columbia University
Howard University
Oregon University System*
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Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Portland State University
Southern Oregon State College
University of Oregon
Western Oregon State College
Princeton University
The Juilliard School
The University of Michigan
The University of Texas at Austin
Tufts University
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at San Diego
Yale University
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