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## Report on Survey of Foreign Teachers of English at Japanese Colleges and Universities

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From the end of the summer of 1994 to the end of the summer of 1995 a survey was conducted of full-time foreign teachers of English at Japanese universities and colleges. The name list used for the survey was the directory published by JACET in 1994. Over 250 copies of the questionnaire have been sent out, and over 90 responses have been received.

The survey included questions about experience in Japan and in teaching, nationality, age, sex and marital status. In addition, questions related to position status and job security were included. Questions about the details of teachers' work were also a feature of the questionnaire. Finally, a section of questions about the school where the respondents are working was included. These consisted of queries about size of the school and faculty, the nature of the institution's English language program, and the number of classes taught by foreign teachers of English. Finally, a section offering respondents an opportunity to express personal opinions about work related issues was afforded. All information has been kept in strictest confidence and this presentation will naturally make no personal references or mention of particular universities or colleges.

The presentation will be divided into two parts. The first part will be devoted to a discussion of the survey instrument itself and problems related to administering a survey of this sort. The second portion of the presentation will focus on the results of the questionnaire and their implications for English education at the university or college level. An initial mailing of the questionnaire was conducted as a test of the questions and the usefulness of the responses. Respondents to the initial mailing were asked to make critical

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comments about the instrument itself. It was hoped that this would enable a more effective questionnaire to be created for the final study.

The actual survey was conducted by mail. The mailing list was taken from the JACET directory of 1994, and every foreign teacher listed in that directory was sent a copy of the questionnaire. Each mailed envelope contained a copy of the questionnaire, a cover letter explaining the questionnaire and the confidentiality of the responses, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return mailing. Despite the convenience of response, the number of answers was less than 50% of the total sent out.

Analysis of the results of the survey shows several points that have direct bearing on the teaching of English at the university or college level. Comments provided by respondents also give insight into common problems in the EFL community at colleges and universities. Although the survey was directed to foreign teachers of English, an interesting follow-up survey would be to include Japanese teachers of English in the survey as well.