

Via Airmail and E-mail

March 27, 2009

To: All members of Sylff community  
From: Akiko Matsunobu  
Executive Director, Scholarship Division  
Re: Progress on the Sylff Program

Spring greetings from the Tokyo Foundation!

I trust that you are all well and in good spirits. As I write to the Sylff fellows and members of the Sylff steering committees, I am filled with fond memories of those whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, and also think of those whom I wish to have the opportunity of meeting at the earliest possible time. Today I would like to share with you my personal observations as a member of the Sylff community and, in my capacity as the executive director responsible for the Sylff Program, the most recent news concerning the new orientation of the program.

### **Sylff Fellows as Future Leaders**

Most of you may know that I came aboard the Tokyo Foundation early in 2008. My priority in the first year was not to only understand, but to actually feel what Sylff is. With this in mind, I saw and listened to as many people in the Sylff community as possible, and learned from their experiences. In my travels to many countries, I was pleasantly surprised to see so many Sylff fellows willing to proactively tackle the issues of our time, transcending such traditional borders as nationality, language, religion, and ethnicity to make our world a better place to live. These fellows are sure to become the leaders envisioned in the Sylff Mission. I am pleased to inform you that as of March 2009, the cumulative number of Sylff fellows reached close to 11,400 thanks to the efforts of past and present members of the steering committees at the Sylff institutions. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for their contributions to the Sylff Program.

### **Getting Connected**

As the Sylff community grows and bears fruit in many parts of the world, I feel strongly that Sylff fellows, both past and present, may benefit immensely if they are connected to each other through the network. This is because of the diversity the community represents, the stimuli and fair competition it can offer, the collaboration and cooperation it enables, and the lifelong friendships and compassion it will hopefully build. To provide an opportunity for the members

of the Sylff community to become connected within and beyond the Sylff world, we launched the Sylff-specific website last September ([www.sylff.org](http://www.sylff.org)). We are now in the process of developing the interactive website, called “Sylff Connect,” for more efficient and effective communication between the members. Please look forward to the opening of Sylff Connect, which will be announced at a later date.

### Unveiling Sylff Plus

Based upon the voices I heard, the needs and lessons I learned from SYLFF fellows and members of the steering committees, I strived to develop the next agenda. That is, to redesign the Follow-up Programs to fulfill real needs, achieve cost-effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, and most importantly, to improve user utility.

On this occasion I am pleased to unveil our new programs called Sylff Plus, a makeover of the former Follow-up Programs. Like the Follow-up Programs, Sylff Plus is a categorical name and includes three individual programs: Sylff Research Abroad, Sylff Leadership Initiatives, and Sylff Prize. And, like the Follow-up Programs, Sylff Plus provides additional support to the fellows and other members of the Sylff community. Please refer to the attached flyer on Sylff Plus for details. Allow me, however, to emphasize our reason for this change. We simply hoped to achieve a mechanism that will improve the matters mentioned above and benefit the initiatives of only those who are willing to take actions seriously and to become leaders of tomorrow. This is because of our belief that leaders are expected to be proactive rather than reactive, to work for the benefit of others rather than of themselves, to be inclusive of people rather than exclusive, and to be effective even in an ambiguous situation. Indeed, we are highly committed to offering all possible assistance to those who truly understand and practice the Sylff Mission.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time. I sincerely hope that you will find the new scheme instrumental and user-friendly, and will utilize it to the fullest.

Thank you, and with all good wishes and best regards,



Attention: The Foundation has been shifting its main networking and communication tools from paper-base to digital. Please register your contact information (esp. e-mail address) on the Sylff Network Database. If you do not have access to the database, please contact us at [scholarship\[a\]tkfd.or.jp](mailto:scholarship[a]tkfd.or.jp). \*\*[a] must be replaced by @.