

## SESSION 2

# Introduction to the Tokyo Foundation and Overview of the Sylff Program

Akiko Imai, Director, Public Relations, Tokyo Foundation

Some of you may not be very familiar with what we do at the Tokyo Foundation, so I'd like to give you an overview of our activities in addition to administering the Sylff program.

The Tokyo Foundation undertakes policy research and leadership development to address many difficult challenges facing humankind, such as environmental problems, military conflicts and arms buildup, poverty and income gaps, and the disappearance of cultural diversity under the slogan of “Developing Policy,” “Investing in People,” and thereby “Transforming Society.”

### Policy Research

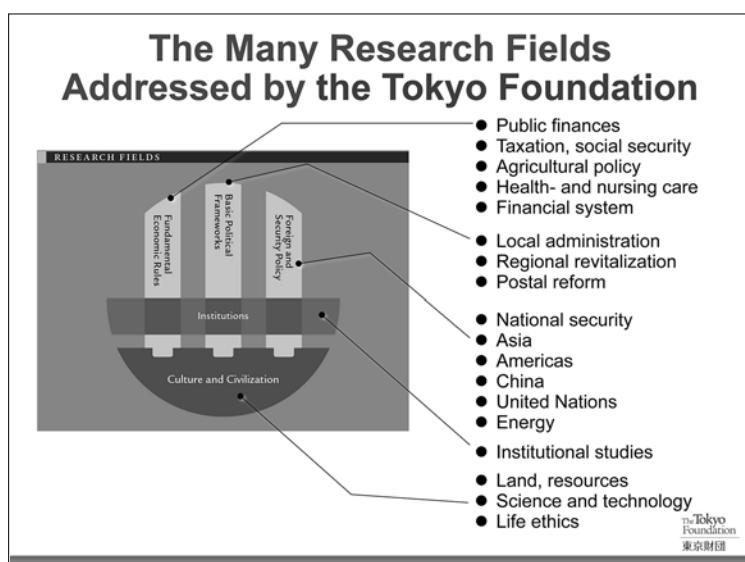
Policy research at the Tokyo Foundation covers many different fields. They range from those relating to basic functions of the state—such as public finances, the tax system, and social security—to those that have a direct bearing on the life of the nation, like healthcare and agriculture.

Themes concerning the political decision-making process in Japan, national security, and foreign policy are also explored. We adopt an interdisciplinary approach to address topics relating to the very foundations of human culture and civilization.

We also conduct programs in Japan aimed at raising awareness of the need to preserve the rich and beautiful aspects of our own traditional culture that are now in danger of disappearing. Topics range from food and forestry to traditional crafts and community values in the era of global competition.

These activities are being augmented with the help of a broad global network built by the Foundation over the years.

Many leading organizations around the world have chosen to partner with the Tokyo Foundation because of our extensive personal and institutional networks in Japan. The president of our Foundation, Hideki Kato, currently serves as the secretary general of the





Government Revitalization Unit in the Cabinet Office that is responsible for reviewing national government programs to eliminate wasteful spending. The Foundation also has close links with local governments, universities, and civil society, as well as with Japanese and foreign cabinet ministers and legislators, scholars and other experts, and leading journalists.

We conducted joint research with the Center for a New American Security, a Washington D.C.-based, nonpartisan think tank. We have just produced a joint statement on the Japan-US alliance and the ways to maintain a secure world and ensure that global commons like the sea, air, outer space, and cyberspace are open and accessible to all.

### **Sylff and NF-JLEP**

The Sylff program, meanwhile, is administered by the Tokyo Foundation with the help of The Nippon Foundation and all of you attending this meeting this afternoon. The number of current and graduated fellows around the world since the Sylff program was established in 1987 has been rising steadily. In October 2010, there were about 13,000 fellows. This is a very extensive community that you can tap to

further your research and professional careers.

Sylff fellows have specialized in a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. The top three areas of study are economics, law, and business management.

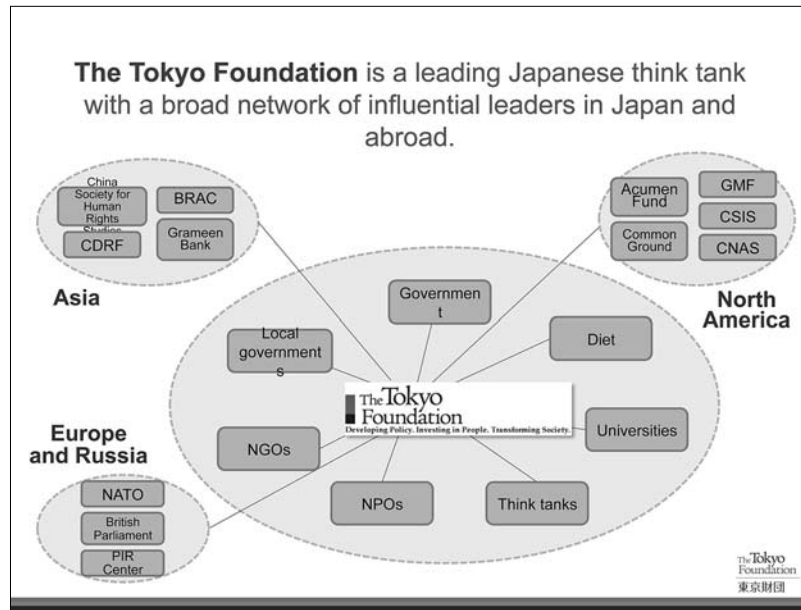
Following graduation, Sylff fellows have gone on to contribute to society as outstanding leaders in their respective communities with a deep appreciation and respect for values different from their own.

We hope that many new leaders will emerge through the Sylff program in the future.

The Tokyo Foundation offers additional programs to support the efforts of Sylff fellows to play a leadership role in society. There are three such programs, which are collectively known as Sylff Plus, which will be described in detail in the next session.

Through Sylff's global network, Sylff Plus has produced many concrete achievements.

Another example of our activities is the Nippon Foundation Fund for Japanese Language Education Program. We are engaged in promoting understanding of the Japanese language and culture around the world through NF-JLEP, which we administer jointly with The Nippon Foundation.



### Future Collaboration

Our hope is to more closely connect the Tokyo Foundation's own network of researchers with Sylff fellows and institutions around the world. We think that by achieving greater synergy between the two networks, the Tokyo Foundation and Sylff can work closer together to address major global challenges.

To begin, study findings can be more actively shared among researchers at the Tokyo

Foundation and Sylff institutions.

And joint research could be conducted between the Tokyo Foundation and Sylff institutions on bilateral or multilateral policy issues. Of course, adequate human and financial resources will need to be secured before such a convergence of networks can be realized. But I hope that new ideas will emerge from this Administrators Meeting that will bring us closer to this goal.