

OCA Report 2021

Off Campus Activities under MRA Foundation

Having Fun·Making Friends



Having Fun, Making Friends, Promoting International Exchange

What We Want to Do!

Action Goals

What Is MRA?

OCA is a subsidiary initiative of MRA Foundation.

MRA is an acronym for Moral Re-Armament. Following World War I, Dr. Frank Buchman advocated for the establishment of a peace movement known as the Oxford Group. After World War II a "World conference" was held at Caux, Switzerland to facilitate the "Reconciliation of Germany and France" and unity among Asian nations, including Japan. The goal of the group was not to advocate for the military re-armament during the Cold War, but to re-arm the world with morality. This is the starting point of MRA activities.

Later, MRA expanded its activities in the United States to include an educational foundation called "Up with People" whose goal was to educate youth through performing musical shows throughout the world. In Japan, the "MRA House" was founded to support projects that promoted international understanding and to develop international leaders.

What Is OCA? What Are We Doing?

OCA, an acronym for Off Campus Activities, was created under the auspices of the MRA Foundation in 1971 with the goal of promoting international exchange and student exchanges in Asia. The program began with Japanese university students visiting their counterparts in Southeast Asia, and has continued for more than 50 years conducting international exchange activities among young people in Southeast Asia, Korea and Taiwan.

In 2021, it was not possible to travel abroad due to the pandemic, but OCA is engaged with young people overseas and with the training of international leaders through the following programs...

●Asian Beat Project

This is an international exchange program rooted in song and dance. Every year, members from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Southeast Asia countries create a show and perform at universities and orphanages in Asian countries. Participants first interact with Asian Beat online, becoming familiar with the program that way, and then later they visit Asian countries, and make lifelong friends..

<https://asianbeat.net/>

●Japan-Thailand Student Exchange Program

Students from Chulalongkorn University, Mae Fah Luang University in Thailand, Chuo University, Saitama University, and Keio University in Japan are recruited through online programs.

Thai students are scheduled to visit Japan in May, and a summer camp will be held in August. In October and February of the following year, Japanese students will visit northern Thailand to learn about the current situation in Thailand and make friends.

<https://thaijapan.mrafoundation.or.jp/>

●Support for Mae Kok Foundation and Ban Rom Sai

This is a program to organize support and volunteer activity for the Mae Kok Foundation, an orphanage for hill tribes in the Chiang Rai Province of Thailand, and Ban Rom Sai – an HIV orphanage in the Chiang Mai Province, also in Thailand.

What We Want to Do?

We would like to share the following ideas and ways of life with others through the international exchange program:

- 1) Make close friends throughout the world and think of the world as our home.
- 2) Expand our views about world events and voice our opinions.
- 3) Listen attentively to our hearts and follow our own voices in honest ways.
- 4) Recognize that each person is different, accept diverse values, and love people as they are.
- 5) Care and think about people's feelings.
- 6) Think about what is right rather than who is right.
- 7) Always think of others and ways to help society.

We want to embrace these ideas as we interact with others, enjoy daily life and live our lives.

The MRA Foundation
OCA International Exchange Program



What Will the OCA Projects Look like in the Future?

Response to a Global Pandemic

Many of the OCA's planned exchanges programs have been canceled due to the pandemic. We discussed what kinds of projects are still possible under this situation, and have expanded what we do online.

Online Asian Beat

Asian Beat has hosted approximately 30 virtual weekend gatherings, in an effort to recreate online the already proven value of cultural exchange.

These were creative collaborations whose culminating product were English-language YouTube videos. We have organized three of these projects thus far.

1st: March 21st-April 18th

2nd: June 5th-July 11th

3rd: October 30th-November 14th

About 35 participants have joined in each time. The staff for these projects and the participating cast members were recruited from Asian countries, and as two-thirds of the cast are from Asian countries, and only one-third are from Japan, the projects are conducted entirely in English. We have thus far created two YouTube videos that send messages to Asia through song and dance.

Online Japan-Thailand Student Exchange

Joint online seminars were held by Chulalongkorn University, Mae Fah Luang University, Chuo University, and Saitama University. The first seminar was held on March 16, 2021 by Professor Piti of Chulalongkorn University, and the second was held on January 27, 2022 by Professor Goto of Chuo University. In each case, 50 students from 4 schools participated online.

We held online student exchange meetings as well as an online seminar. Three representatives from each of the four universities were selected, and the student representatives from Japan and Thailand organized three online exchange meetings on June 17, July 5, and August 10.

The number of students participating in these three exchange meetings has thus far reached 127

Online Mae Kok Foundation Visit

The Mae Kok Foundation (MKF), an orphanage serving the hill tribes of Chiang Rai, Thailand, has suffered financially during the pandemic. MRA donated ¥700,000 to MKF for the financial help. Another ¥900,000 in individual donations have been allocated towards the building of a computer room for the children. So that donors can see the faces of the children that benefit, as well as exactly how the money is being used, MKF has organized visits online

and, they have live-streamed two of Ms. Anuluck's Thai cooking classes.

Future OCA Projects

In 2021, we made good friends online through our network in Asia. However, what we really want is an international exchange that features visits overseas, we want to meet with these people face to face, we want travel with them, and we want everyone to get to know each other.

So let's discuss future OCA projects....

Expand Online Recruitment

Through the Asian Beat Online project, we have now learned that it is possible to recruit a wide range of overseas staff and cast members through our home page and through our email campaigns.

We now know that future projects can be launched easily and inexpensively – recruiting participants through our online programs. Before the pandemic, we relied on organizations in Taiwan and South Korea to recruit participants, but during the pandemic, we could no longer rely on those entities. From now on, we intend to recruit a wider range of overseas participants on our own.

Make Plans with Overseas Friends

Probably a lot of our potential for growth lies in our existing informal networks of friends. We want to encourage everyone to get together with friends – overseas friends especially. Get online with them and discuss possible projects. Make this the first step to planning real tours with these overseas friends. Foster these friendships with the goal of ultimately meeting in person.

So What Shall We Do?

- 1 First of all, it is important to improve the homepage so that our information is widely available. Asian Beat and Japan-Thailand Student Exchange, need to be featured there.
- 2 It is important systematically to develop young leaders that can plan and implement projects.
- 3 We will create a risk management manual to study how to deal with risks in actual project implementation, and new recruits will study how to deal with these risks.
- 4 We will insure ourselves against those risks that are not covered by general travel insurance, such as measures against infectious disease, earthquakes at travel destinations, tsunamis, wars, evacuation advisories, etc.

While taking these measures, we would like to promote online exchanges further, meet in person someday, travel together, and engage in international exchange activities that deepen friendship.

Asian Beat Online



I'm Yuka Shimabayashi (Yukachin), a staff member of Asian Beat Online.

The Asian Beat Project started in 2013 and has been carried out in various Asian countries, centering on exchange tours. In 2021, we moved all of our operations online due to the pandemic.

By going online, we have been blessed with a more diverse membership than ever before and have made irreplaceable friends all over the world. It wasn't always just fun, as together we had to overcome many complex challenges.

Here, I will report on our on-going activities.

<Outline of Project Implementation>

ASIAN BEAT Online (ABO) 1

Period: March 21st-April 18th (4 weeks)

Number of people: 28 (including 7 staff)

Participating countries: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Indonesia.

ASIAN BEAT Online (ABO) 2

Period: June 5th-July 11th (5 weeks)

Number of people: 32 (including 7 staff)

Participating countries: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Palestine.

ASIAN BEAT Online (ABO) 3

Period: October 30th-November 14th (3 weeks)

Number of people: 28 (including 5 staff)

Participating countries: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam

During each program, we met online for 3-4 hours each weekend to interact with each other, play games, talk, or sing and dance. Primarily, everything was conducted in English, but the atmosphere was relaxed and affirming, making it easier to bridge any misunderstandings.

Make Friends Online

At first, we were worried about what kind of exchanges would be possible online because up to now, these were always projects where we actually met face-to-face to deepen the cultural exchange through singing, dancing, and traveling.

We could not touch each other, and when we sang songs, there was always the complication of the time delay by online performance. In such a context, what remains important is the desire to build friendships and cultivate a program that encourages people to get along with each other. We thought it would be difficult to facilitate these activities online in English, and to convey our enthusiasm for the program to people we were meeting for the first time, but we found we were actually able to convey our feelings through the screen. Little by little, friendships were formed with those that shared our vision.

Continue Singing and Dancing

I don't know this person at all; but if I know the same song and the same dance, I feel an intimacy with this person at once! Do you have such an experience?

Uniting people through shared experience – that is the power of singing and

dancing. I don't mind if I'm not good at it, I just try to imitate the movement.

I'm not enthusiastic about it, but I try to move my body.

In such simple ways, you can laugh and understand each other even if you don't share any words.

This time, we created an original song for Asian Beat, incorporating the staff. It was our first time to write and compose songs online together like this, but each of us shared our impressions of what he had learned during the program, we put those impressions into words, and combined our thoughts. It was very difficult to make the final product cohesive because our wide-ranging values, but our joy when it was finally completed was exceptional and the song that was our finished product was now very special to us.

I hope that one day we will be able to sing this song face to face.

Making Videos to Reach the World

What can Asian friends do to get together online? We came up with the idea of creating a videos.

ABO1 is "Hope of Being Alive." We put the thought that we can make friends in the world even in such a world as we have now, and cherish the hope and happiness that we have now.

ABO2 is "Energy of Diversity." We created energetic dance videos, incorporating the work of many friends.

Even in times when the news from around the world was getting pretty dark, our project was filled with a positive power with which we hope to reach the world, celebrating a connection with people whom we would come to learn are very much like ourselves, and wishing for peace.



How to Make Friends?

The purpose of the program is to "become life-long friends."

Having just a few short weeks, there was not much time to simply enjoy a dialogue with each other. We realized that we needed to create a time window for the dialogue.

At ABO3, we decided to work with multinational staff to think about what kind of projects should be planned during the program to promote life-long friendships.

The program content was structured so that the cast could deepen their relationships with each other by actively incorporating one-on-one talks and setting aside time to learn each other's languages.



The Importance of Staff

From the time we started ABO1, we have sought to recruit multinational staff. The reasons are:

- 1 Multinational staff are indispensable for recruiting a diverse cast.
- 2 Drawing from various ideas and values, the program becomes rich. Also,

the relationships amongst the staff deepen.

Cast members who participated after ABO1, said they wanted to be the staff who could facilitate the next program! Many voices were raised. The atmosphere was fun and carefree, with an ethic of helping each other.

A Community Has Been Created

Recently, Casts themselves have held classes where cast members can learn Indonesian and Japanese, and other voluntary exchanges have continued. Moreover, after the first program finished, we found that ABO had become a kind of self-perpetuating community, the participants remaining in touch and planning drinking parties.

ABO is now a nickname for this community to create by casts themselves.

It's hard to build these kinds of connections between people, but we could feel that across many different countries, we had managed to build something that might be called a family. We will continue to recognize each other's differences and nurture a membership that is eager to learn from each other.

2022 Asian Beat Project

From now on, we will work toward promoting "tours," where friends can make their first acquaintance online!



We are planning to go to "Indonesia" in March 2023. This tour is limited to those who have participated in Asian Beat Online thus far. If you are interested, please join ASIAN BEAT Online 4. We have scheduled three informational sessions. Please apply at the home page!

<Cast briefing session> @ Online

Saturday, April 23, 14: 00-16: 00

April 24 (Sun) 14: 00-16: 00

Saturday, April 30 14: 00-16: 00

※We closed the cast application for ABO4. Thank you.

We have discovered the power of organizing and building relationships on line.

With this new confidence in our ability to reach people, we are eager to expand.



Online Japan-Thailand Student Exchange



Due to the pandemic, it has become impossible to run university exchange programs between Japan and Thailand as we had in the past. But not wanting to give up on this project we conducted these exchanges online.

It was our first attempt, and we were worried if we would be able to get along meeting only online.

Here is how we adapted the program:

1 We had three online monthly exchange meetings for three months so

that the students could meet frequently.

2 The students scheduled their exchanges independently so that they

could interact with each other at their own convenience.

The OCA staff helped the students plan for this new and unfamiliar online operation, helped to host events online, and helped with language barriers that might arise between Japanese and Thai student participants.

<Program Contents>

The student representatives were able to engage in a deeper exchange by forming teams drawn from the four universities. Pooling their collective expertise and collaborating to create an enjoyable event. This effort becomes a very important experience for all students.

Student Representatives

June: Preaw/MFU, Din/Chula, Kamoshi/Saitama, Soma/Saitama

July: Pennie/MFU, Tan/MFU, Hiroki/Saitama, Masutami/Chuo

August: Cookie/Chula, Nice/Chula, Fukui/Chuo

<Number of Participant>

	Chulalongkorn University	MFU	Chuo University	Saitama University	Total
June 17	25	10	17	9	61
July 5	17	14	2	5	38
August 10	8	5	12	3	28
Total	50	29	31	17	127

< Questionnaire >

The satisfaction level from the participants was very high, and that question aside, it was worth taking on this challenge because we discovered that it was possible to do this online. After this exchange program, some students volunteered to be appointed as student representatives for 2022, so we were happy that we could remain connected.

<Questionnaire>

Respondents in total	57	
Very satisfied	36	63.2%
Satisfied	19	33.3%
Normal	2	3.5%
Dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	0	0%



4 University Online Seminar

1st: March 16, 2021 2nd: January 27, 2022

It has become difficult to travel abroad due to the global pandemic, and students are still unable to come to campus. We arranged with Professor Komoriya of Chuo University and used Zoom to hold a joint online seminar among the four universities.

The first lecture was from Professor Piti of Chulalongkorn University, and the second lecture was from Professor Goto of Chuo University. Each teacher recorded the day's lecture on a video and distributed it to the participating students in advance. The students attended the seminar after studying the Video. On the day of the seminar, after explaining the summary of the lecture contents, Thai and Japanese students were divided into several rooms and discussed the issues presented by the teacher. They were encouraged to add the perspective from within their respective social and environmental contexts, and personal beliefs. After that, the entire group reconvened and resumed the discussion.

1st 4-University Online Seminar

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Thai time 13: 00-15: 00

Japan time 15: 00-17: 00

Lecturer: Dr. Piti Srisangnam

Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

Deputy Director of ASEAN Research Center

Theme: The Indo-Pacific Strategy

"A New Paradigm for Relations in China, India, and ASEAN ..."

Participants: a total of 55 people gathered for the seminar – 12 students from Chulalongkorn University, 10 from MFUs, 12 from Chuo University, 10 from Saitama University, 6 professors from 3 universities, and 5 OCA staff.

The students discussed the strengths and weaknesses of various options presently before Thai and Japanese policy-makers on a range of issues presented by the seminar discussion leader. All of these topics were issues relating to the Indo-Pacific region.



2nd 4-University Online Seminar

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Thai time 13: 00-15: 30

Japan time 15: 00-17: 30

Lecturer: Dr. Takao Goto

Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chuo University

Theme: Differences in traffic conditions between Thailand and Japan

Participants: a total of 35 people gathered for the seminar on Zoom: 9 students from Chulalongkorn University, 2 from MFU, 19 from Chuo University, 5 from Saitama University were nominated and 28 students participated on the day. Dr. Sirima and Dr. Pear of Chulalongkorn University, and Professor Komoriya of Chuo University participated.



This time, the number of participants decreased because some MFU students had to attend their classes during our seminar time.

Professor Goto held a number of discussions from the perspective of economics. He discussed methods for privatizing road and railway businesses in both countries. He discussed measures to eliminate road congestion. He discussed the construction of high-speed railways to replace air routes. After the seminar, OCA announced the plans for this year's "Japan-Thailand Student Exchange Program".

Comments from Each Teacher of the 1st Seminar

Comments from Sirima sensei of Chulalongkorn University

This first online exchange activity was a very good opportunity for students of both countries to meet and exchange their ideas. Thanks to this pandemic, we have discovered another channel of international exchange.

In my opinion, this first attempt at online exchange activity went out quite well. Students were able share their ideas on the assigned topics.

The program was designed in such a way as to allow students time to learn about a given topic before discussing it. My hope is that – having formed these international connections – these students stay in touch.

Comments from Rapipong sensei of Mae Fah Luang University

This was the first time that OCA has organized an online seminar for students from four different universities, and I found the event quite interesting.

Even though the topic of some seminar discussions might have been outside of the field of mainstream economics, it was fruitful, as students need a broader view of what is happening in our region.

The online discussion room was also interesting – for example, the SWOT analysis of Indo-Pacific policies. I have to confess that the students did a much better job than I would have done at their age. This was a great experience for all participants.

Comments from Komoriya sensei of Chuo University

The pandemic has forced the world to rethink and rework how it does things. Students are constantly interacting internationally using Zoom and similar tools. We have had to accommodate ourselves to these tools, and protocols pertaining to them. But also the lecture content, the nature of seminar discussions, and the quality of collaborative presentations have undergone a new style. And through this project, students from our four universities were able to participate in that transformation.

Mae Kok Foundation Support

The Long-Awaited Computer Room Has Been Completed!

Mae Kok Foundation (MKF)'s business income fell due to the pandemic, putting it in a very difficult financial situation.

In addition to our annual donation of ¥400,000 yen to the agricultural projects that MRA Foundation organizes, MRA Foundation made an additional remittance of ¥300,000 yen for emergency support. At the same time, we were able to collect ¥660,000 in individual donations by soliciting donations from OCA members beginning in November 2021.

"Make a Difference" members who are active mainly in Nagoya, and charity projects centered on Asian Beat cast members participated in the fundraising events. These personal donations were sent to MKF through the account of MKF Support Association. We also received a donation of ¥240,000 (71,000 Thai Baht) from everyone at OCA Thailand. In all, we collected and sent a total donation of ¥1.6 million for MKF in December 2021.

To those that donated, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude. Thanks to you, MKF's business situation has stabilized. With these donations, we were able to build a children's computer room, which was one of our goals for the year. We put a glass door in one corner of the activity rooms, installed insulation, installed an air conditioner, added a remodeled desk, and bought two computers. Wi-Fi was set up, and an opening ceremony was held on February 19th. They invited the Directors.

The children are now doing homework, doing research, and studying each on his or her own computer -- provided by you. We eagerly anticipate the wider range of knowledge they will now have access to.



The room is fitted with glass dividers and doors, and has panel stated "donated by OCA and OCA Thailand" .



Children studying at their newly provided computers.

Visit a "Make a Difference" Charity Event

"Make a Difference" -- active mainly in Nagoya -- has been hosting successful fundraisers for MKF since the end of 2020. We heard that one event would be held at Mihama Farm in Mihama Town, Aichi Prefecture, so we visited. Mihama Farm is a long-term project aimed at "preserving soil for our children," and aims to open in 2013. This event featured rice balls cooked in a mess tin, pork miso soup, roasted sweet potatoes, and professional hand massages.

This rice ball and pork miso soup were the best! Another attraction was a waterless toilet -- treated with sawdust and microorganisms. The children got to learn how it worked. Mihama Farm was a relaxing and comfortable space dotted with orange trees. MKF also produces pesticide-free vegetables, fruit trees, and beehouses. There were many things in common between Mihama Farm and MKF, and I felt a strange connection between them.

Thank you for donating all the profits from the ticket and food sales. We were inspired, and we hope to plan such events in Kanto -- perhaps even in the suburbs of Tokyo.



From the left, Ms. Yamada, Ms. Noda (Make a Difference), Ms. Takizawa, Ms. Ueda (Mrs. Mihama Farm Owner), Mr. Okumura



Bags for used toilet paper, made from newspaper, for using the waterless toilet. In lieu of flushing, put used paper in these bags and throw them away.

MKF Support Charity Project



This is a report of a new charity project launched by the Asian Beat Program staff.

Participation fees for this program went to MKF through the account of "MKF Support Association."

①Global Charity Run & Walk

Period: July 10-25, 2021 (14 days)

Number of people: 29 (participating countries: Japan, Thailand, South Korea)

Donations collected: ¥56,616.

Combined distance of all walkers and runners: 1366.23km

②Global Charity Cooking Class (Thai cooking class)

Period: October 10, 2021 (2 hours)

Number of people: 7 (participating countries: Japan, South Korea)

Donations collected: ¥10,500

Cuisine: Green curry, banana coconut milk

③Global Charity Tidying Up (decluttering)

Period: December 26-30, 2021 (14 days)

Number of people: 21 (participating countries: Japan, Indonesia)

Donations collected: ¥57,500

Each program incorporates a lot of ideas that participants can participate in happily.

1. No quotas are set and each participant pursues the goals he/she wishes to achieve over the course of the event.
2. Charity goals are subordinated to the goal of forming meaningful connections.
3. Charity becomes another context for discussing what we can do for society.
4. We recruit participants not only from Japan but also from overseas.

For more information about these initiatives, please check the latest information from our website and join us!



Ban Rom Sai, Library Project Donation

Ban Rom Sai is a living facility for orphans infected with HIV in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand. In recent years, they have also accepted children from the National Orphanage. At the time of its inception, there was prejudice and discrimination in the village, but the library has become available to children and mothers in the area, and attitudes in general towards the facility have improved. The library now serves as a community center in the area. Since the library was built, OCA has donated ¥400,000 a year to maintain and improve it.

However, due to the pandemic, external use of the library has been restricted, so, this year, it was only available to the children in the facility. It was reported that the library and computer room, where the coolness can be taken amid concerns about the record heat and the effects of PM2.5, have enriched the children's stay home and made great use of them.

Our hope is that the Corona disaster will soon be over and lively reading events can resume.



Ban Rom Sai's computer room. OCA makes donations for maintenance.

Ms. Kitano and Ms. Muraoka, Thank You for Your Hard Work on the School Project

This school project ran for eight years (beginning in 2014). It was canceled in 2021.

To Ms. Kitano and Ms. Muraoka, we thank you very much for taking charge for such a long time. What follows is a retrospective of those eight years...

◆ Project History

In the future, not only English and other language skills, but also the ability to respect diverse values and the ability to express one's own culture and opinions across linguistic and cultural barriers – especially on questions that may not have normative answers – and an ability to live and let live will be necessary, an ability to look past differences to work together and solve problems as a team.

Common Beat is a precursor organization from which evolved Asian Beat.

In the context of the school project, OCA and Common Beat organized a course aimed at nurturing a zest for life in children.

The purpose was to open children to a broader range of opportunity through meeting adults from various backgrounds and through engaging in school projects that emphasized creative expression.

Beginning from 2014, after a great deal of planning, the project ran at full scale, and entailed various activities such as workshops for faculty and staff, and program development both online and offline (on as well as off premises). We have been able to deliver classes to more than 13,000 children – from elementary to high school.

◆ Effects of the Project

The main program, "Dance of the World," features dances from 3 to 4 countries. It features greetings and expressions of good will in the language of each country, as well as a sampling of the culture of each country.

To make it easier for children that are shy about dancing, or perhaps are limited by disability, to participate, there is space in the program for children to express themselves through other media – the emphasis being on learning through fun. The result was a shared experience of moving minds and moving bodies, with a wealth of self-expression opportunities. As one teacher put it, "for children who have so little opportunity to actually come into contact with foreign cultures (though they may have learned of these cultures in the abstract), here was an opportunity to engage with these cultures with their whole bodies."



Records of School Project

	Number of schools visited	Children who participated in school visits	Children who participated in the online program
2015	15	1397	0
2016	17	1000	0
2017	33	2393	0
2018	45	5003	0
2019	40	2524	0
2020	11	1184	493
2021	0	0	170
Total	161	13,501	663

◆ Sanpoko (Ms. Kitano) Impressions

I want to provide a space where each child can express him or herself and learn to respect the individuality of others. I want time, in education, to be set aside for simply enjoying the growth of international understanding.

This was why I stayed with the school project for so long. Looking back, interacting with adults of various professions and ages was a valuable opportunity for children, and at the same time, it proved an exciting learning environment for the visiting adults, especially where opportunities arose for adults to bridge language barriers between children.

Children themselves by nature are great teachers. I was able to take joy in the life-enriching experiences for myself and everyone involved – child and adult.

The pandemic changed a lot, of course, but we will continue to support the project. Once again, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to OCA and its affiliates for their support.

◆ Maru-chan (Ms. Muraoka) Impressions

While conducting "World Dance Class" at the various participating schools, one student asked, "Why do we have these classes?"

We answered by saying, "How you enjoy it is up to you." But this program conveys the consistent message that there are many "differences" and many "commonalities" between people and once we learn to relate to others person-to-person the next much easier step is "self to friend."

It's not just about building country-to-country awareness, but also people-to-people awareness, and ultimately person-to-person. We are seeking a meta-linguistic shift towards "Mr. X who happens to live in the country X and myself who happens to live in Japan."

The student who asked this question seemed confused by my response. He needed time to come around on his own to what I supposed was an unfamiliar concept, but that's education. The Olympic and Paralympic Games were held in Japan, and while events such as these allow me to feel closer to the world, I am more profoundly impacted by my experience in the school program because we live in a world where there is too much conflict. The school program, I think, gets at the fundamental challenges when it comes to ending conflict.



Interim Plan: 2022 to 2024

1) Background (Three-Year Business Plan)

The 2017 business plan reached its final year in 2021 so this three-year interim business plan -- 2022 to 2024 was prepared by the OCA management committee.

At the first management committee meeting on April 15, 2021, the areas of concern and persons in charge were resolved as follows....

Meeting Date	Area of Concern	Person in Charge
May 6	MRA Foundation Policy and OCA Policy	Hamaguchi
May 12	Thai student visits Japan, Northern Thailand Project	Okumura
May 20	What we want to do, the internal environment, the external environment, principles to defend, securing participants, evaluating method of the project	Okumura
May 27	Outsourced expenses, succession planning, operations systems and protocols.	Shimizu
June 4	Support to MKF and Ban Rom Sai	Takizawa
June 16	The Asian Beat Project	Mitsuya, Shimabayashi, Kobayashi
June 25	The School Project	Kitano

An interim report was made at the Management Committee Meeting on June 10th and July 30th, and the final draft was approved at the 4th Management Committee Meeting on August 19th and submitted to the President of MRA Foundation.

2) Key Points of the Interim Business Plan

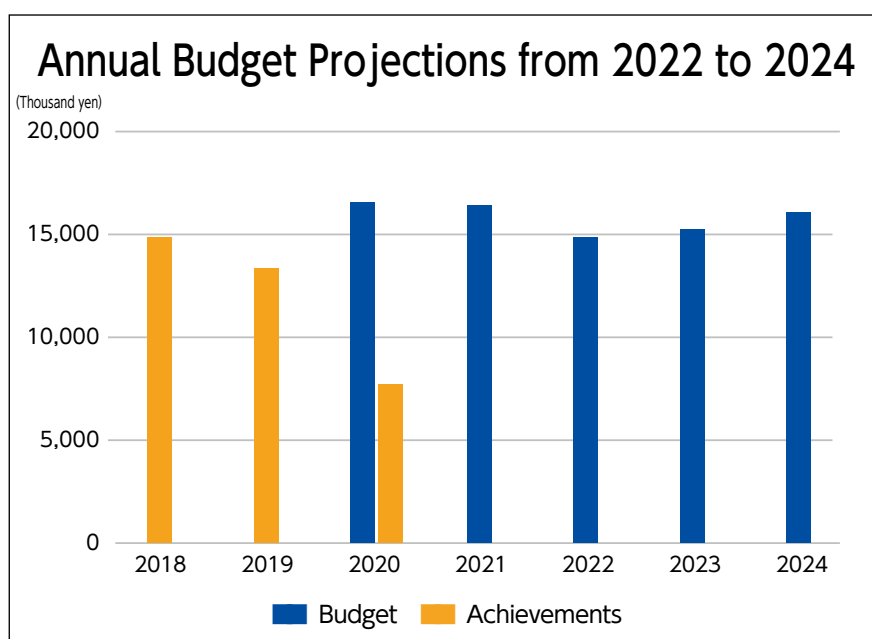
1. We reaffirmed the mission of the OCA and reached consensus on how to realize the vision for each project.
2. While outreach to domestic and foreign allies, and cooperating

organizations, were constrained by the pandemic, it has been proved that it is possible to easily and inexpensively recruit participants from a wide range of Asian countries online. Going forward, we will continue to recruit participants through our online programs, deepen friendships by going to meet friends in person on tour after getting to know each other on line, thereby enhancing and revitalizing our international exchange initiatives which have been our core competency, as an organization, from the beginning.

3. In order to further the online program, we have to upgrade the homepage for each project, and optimize these web pages as a medium for disseminating information.
4. In order for the online program to be successful, it is necessary to develop young leaders and young staff from Asian countries; so we need to be explicit and proactive when it comes to succession planning across all OCA operations.
5. Asian Beat will make one brief tour and visit Asia twice a year. In our third year, we will invite Asian friends to Japan for an Asian Assembly.
6. The Japan-Thailand Student Exchange Project will focus on training for Thai students to visit Japan, a project to visit Northern Thailand, and 4 universities online seminars.
7. In addition to donations from the MRA Foundation, "the MKF Support Project" will collect individual donations and, every year, will organize fundraisers for MKF children under the auspices of "the MKF Support Association". In addition to fundraising, we will visit with MKF staff and volunteers. We will continue to support the library project at Ban Rom Sai and seek better relations with the surrounding community.

3) Annual Activity Budget from 2022 to 2024

The annual activity budget for 3 years beginning in 2022 is as follows.



OCA Operation Policy

- Organizational structure:** OCA operates as a program under the direct control of the MRA Foundation.
- Activity policy:** The goal of OCA is to foster global leadership through interaction with local communities and cross-cultural exchanges with other countries.
- Budget for Activities:** The budget for activities is based on the annual budget of the MRA Foundation, which is financed by its endowment and management of basic assets.
- Annual Budget** OCA activities and annual expenses of the fiscal years 2021 (actual) and 2022 (budget) are as follows.

Program	2021 (actual)	2022 (budget)
Asian Beat Project	59,874	1,801,000
Japan-Thailand Student Exchange		
Thai Student Visit Program	0	728,000
Northern Thailand Project	0	1,047,000
MKF, Ban Rom Sai		
Donation to MKF	700,000	400,000
Donation to Ban Rom Sai	400,000	400,000
cocoWA Project	0	800,000
Keio IIR Project	0	686,000
School Project	650,000	0
Other Programs		
Japan-Thailand Exchange HP Creation	259,013	0
Asian Beat HP Repair	52,468	0
OCA Report	100,100	210,000
Christmas Party	0	50,000
Overseas Business Trip Expenses	0	2,215,000
Outsourcing Expenses	3,720,000	1,200,000
General Expenses	834,732	2,500,000
Total (yen)	6,776,187	12,037,000

- Steering Committee:** Sato, Kehara, Koseki, Takahashi, Shimizu, Adachi, Agatsuma, Takizawa, Koinuma, Okumura, Kitano, Akiyama, Shimabayashi, Mitsuya, Kobayashi, Mori
- How to Join:** OCA does not have a membership system. No membership fee is required.
Information on OCA activities are available on the MRA Foundation website.
Please contact us from the web site.

Contact:

MRA Foundation, OCA International Exchange Program

REFIR Minami Azabu 1F 9-17, Minamiazabu 4-Chome Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047 Japan

Asian beat <https://asianbeat.net/>

Japan-Thailand Student Exchange <https://thaijapan.mrafoundation.or.jp>