

## Japan's international cultural relations: learn from the west

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=91220&lokasi=lokal>

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### Abstrak

International cultural relations have become an important tool for western advanced industrialized countries in carrying out their foreign policies. Conducting cultural programs, including educational activities abroad, has helped these countries to maintain their political and economic hegemony over cultural relations, their main aim is similar, to develop abroad positive images of their national in pursuit of international co-operation and strategic and economic benefit for the sending nation. Japan is new to its present position in the world community. It is also a relative new-comer to recognizing the benefits of extensive cultural diplomacy those western powerful countries such as the US, Great Britain, France and Germany have pursued for many decades. Thus, it was pursuit of Japan's national interest, not pure altruism and interest in culture that motivated Japan to follow these precedent set by western countries with a policy on cultural diplomacy. In this study I argue that the Japanese government has pursued and still does pursue, cultural relations with neighbour seeking foremost political and economic benefit for Japan benefit for other are a secondary concern.