

〈Artículo〉

Japan Association for Latin American Studies : A 20th Anniversary Perspective

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Introduction

This is an overview of the history of the Japan Association for Latin American Studies (JALAS) for the 20th anniversary of its founding. As current president and one of the organizing committee members in 1980, as well as one who served on the executive council for six terms and as editor of the bulletins and annals, I might be the proper person to take on the task of reviewing its long and difficult progress to becoming a solid multidisciplinary academic association representing Latin American studies in Japan.

The original version of this article was published in December 1997 in the *Ajia Keizai*, a monthly review of the Institute of Developing Economies (Kunimoto 1997). That article, written in the Japanese language, summarized the activities of seventeen years of JALAS. Relying on the same basic sources and brought up to date with new materials, this review will present the history and actual activities of JALAS especially for those non-Japanese who may be interested in the Japanese experiences in Latin American studies. This is, however, only a summary of the whole experiences of JALAS, and not a guide to Latin American studies in Japan. It is hoped that a complete guide of that kind will be compiled in the near future, for there is apparently a need and a demand for information on Japanese researchers, library and archival materials, and institutions dedicated to such studies in Japan.

In the first part of this article the history of Latin American studies in Japan will be briefly described. Then the foundation and development of JALAS will be reviewed through the records and directories of JALAS. Finally the present situation and future trend of Latin American studies in Japan will be analyzed by an overview of the members of JALAS. Since the statistic data used here are not necessarily complete and some were conflicting, I have added some new information and made certain changes for the purpose of simplifying the analytical results. The interpretation is, thus, totally mine, and any mistakes or omissions are my sole responsibility.

I An Overview of the History of Latin American Studies in Japan

It might not be incorrect to say that the specialized study of Latin America in Japan started in the early 1960s when what is now the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) established a section for Latin America in 1960. This institute, a semi-official organization affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, was originally founded in 1958 as the Institute of Asian Economic Affairs with the object of promoting studies on the Asian economies to help expand trade and economic relations between Japan and Asian countries. It was expanded, however, to include other areas as well, and in 1969 the name of the institute was changed to the Institute of Developing Economies (Ishii 1981). It was this institute that trained and produced many Japanese economists to specialize in Latin America, and much later many of those researchers were recruited to be professors in various universities in Japan. Thus the development of Latin American studies in Japan owes much to IDE for forming the basis of academism not only in terms of human resources but also with library materials and research projects. In particular the facilities of IDE open to other scholars have helped much those who might not otherwise have a chance to get involved in broad re-

search in Latin America. The study and training programs abroad that IDE has offered since the 1960s provided the staffs with opportunities to study outside of Japan for a minimum of two consecutive years. Young scholars were sent to the countries in which they wanted to specialize. Thus IDE has developed solid means for researchers to carry out empirical studies of Latin American economies.

Until IDE was established, Japanese academic interest in this area was very limited and marginal. The subject mostly studied with respect to Latin America had been the Japanese emigration to that area. The reports of field work related to Japanese emigration to Latin America by the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been published, and a variety of publications were written about the Japanese experiences in this field. It was in the 1950s and 60s that a series of field studies were done on the Japanese-Brazilian communities and the noteworthy works were published (Nakagawa 1982). In 1967 the publication of the annual migration review, *Iju Kenkyu* [Migration Studies], started and this was edited until 1996 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which handled the official emigration programs. Meanwhile the Japanese Association for Migration Studies was organized in 1991 calling for those who were interested in this field, and it had around 250 members as of the spring of 2000.

As for publications in various fields other than the migration until the 1960s, there were only a limited number of works that excellently analyzed the economies and politics of those Latin American countries in which Japan had been interested. The majority of them were, however, isolated reviews without much academic analysis. For with the exception of a few scholars at Kobe University where the predecessor to the Institute of Economy and Business Administration was founded in 1941, there had existed neither specialists academically trained on Latin American studies nor institutions to of-

fer courses on Latin America. Only a few who had specialized in some established disciplines were found to perform as reporters or analysts of Latin American affairs. Kobe University now has in its Institute of Economy and Business Administration a South American Collection, which holds over 10,000 titles of books, reports, journals and pamphlets on Latin America.

It should be noted that the anthropologists of the University of Tokyo started their ethno-historical studies of the Peruvian Andes in the second half of the 1950s, and their individual researches have developed into a solid basis for integrated projects of the Andean studies attracting specialists of various disciplines not only from that university but also from various institutions. The archaeologists of the University of Tokyo have also been recognized by their contribution to the development of studies of the prehistory of the Peruvian Andes. Their achievements were published not only in Japanese but also in other languages.

The 1960s was the decade in which the area studies as well as the studies of international relations grew in Japan. It was a period in which the rapid development and expansion of the Japanese economy in the latter half of the 1950s and the early 60s demanded specialists to deal with specific areas of the world. Latin America was obviously one of those areas. This was also the period in which Latin America had gained over a 5% share of Japan's total imports and exports, and about 20% of Japanese overseas investments were directed to the development of rich natural resources in Latin America. The increased economic interest in this area had been maintained until around the early 1980s when Latin America suffered severely from the economic crisis.

With the background of Japan's rapid economic expansion and the rising attraction of the Latin American natural resources, the Latin American Society was founded in 1958. This is a membership society, affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help economic, technical, and cultural coopera-

tion between Japan and Latin American countries and to provide information on Latin America to the members as well. Supported by about three hundred enterprises and individual members that have interests in Latin America, the Latin American Society has a library collection and has been active in organizing seminars on Latin America with prominent guest speakers. It has also published a variety of bulletins and books on Latin America, including its important publications of the *Raten Amerika Jiho* [Latin American Information], a monthly review, and the *Raten Amerika Jiten* [Encyclopedia of Latin America] that has been revised every four years.

In 1964 the Japan Society of Social Science on Latin America (JSSSLA) was founded by those who had interest in Latin American politics, laws and economies. The following year marked the establishment of another association, the Association for Luso-Brazilian Studies. This association was concerned with a much wider variety of academic fields, including economics, political science, history, anthropology, sociology, literature, linguistics, etc. In 1967 the Ibero-American Institute of Sophia University in Tokyo was founded. This university is worthy of special mention in the development of Latin American studies in Japan. It has contributed much to establishing the area studies of Latin America with a library of an integrated collection of basic books on Latin America. In 1970 the Japanese Association of Hispanists was founded by specialists in Hispanic literature and linguistics. Each of these organizations has regularly published bulletins, annals, monthly reviews, etc. since their foundation.

Meanwhile Japanese popular interest in Latin America was strongly sustained through the 1960s and the 70s by the Cuban Revolution and Chile's socialist revolution. These phenomena also helped call attention to Latin American affairs. Young students, attracted by dynamic changes and challenges occurring in Latin America, sought careers to be Latin American spe-

cialists and decided to get professional training in Latin American studies. Most of the earlier students, except those of IDE, chose to go to the United States to pursue graduate studies simply because they could obtain Fulbright fellowships. Otherwise it would have been impossible to realize graduate studies abroad at that time because Japanese economic conditions could not yet allow them to go to foreign universities with their own economic means. They chose universities well known for the better programs on Latin American studies. The University of Florida, the University of New Mexico, Stanford University and the University of Texas were the principal institutions elected to train these young Japanese graduate students as future Latin American studies specialists. Later the official exchange program between Japan and Mexico, which started in 1971 with an annual bilateral exchange of 100 students, became one of the important programs to offer the language training and the experiences for future Latin American specialists. Most of the actual younger members of JALAS have benefited from this program.

It was those younger generations that took the initiative in founding a new academic association. For they found only an archaic situation of academism in Latin American studies when they came home from abroad. JSSSLA had been stagnant with a limited number of members, because it was strictly attached to traditional disciplines and indifferent toward interdisciplinary area studies and had also acquired the institutional characteristics of traditional leadership and culture. Thus young ambitious students sought for ways to exchange and broaden their experiences and knowledge by associating with specialists of different fields. They decided to found a new association.

JALAS was founded in June 1980 with 160 members from a great variety of disciplines, and it now has 483 members including almost all the Japanese scholars who are specialized in Latin American studies. Although inte-

grated teaching or research programs in the field of Latin American studies exist only in a few universities and institutions, as seen later, most of the Japanese specialists in Latin American studies have found fulltime positions in colleges and universities all over Japan. In many cases, however, they may hold only one or two classes related to Latin America, while they teach subjects of the traditional disciplines. In these cases they tend to be isolated from academic activities and are handicapped by inferior research conditions.

The graduate study programs on Latin America are offered only by a limited number of universities such as Nagoya University, the University of Tokyo, Sophia University, Kobe University, the University of Tsukuba, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Osaka University of Foreign Studies and Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. About 12% of the Japanese specialists on Latin American studies belong to these institutions. However, even in these universities, the libraries and teaching staffs are poorly equipped compared with the standard of Latin American studies programs in universities of the United States.

Besides these universities, there are two major research institutions which have Latin American sections: the Institute of Developing Economies which is located in eastern Japan and the National Museum of Ethnology in western Japan. Both of these are national institutions, and have around 10 fulltime researchers each whose main interests are focused on Latin America. Both groups hold international meetings and organize research projects open to outside scholars as well.

The most conspicuous characteristic of Latin American studies in Japan is the lack of a core institution fully supported by public funds. There is no information center nor research library that can satisfy the needs of the Japanese specialists. The institutions and some universities mentioned can support researchers' needs to a certain extent, but it heavily depends on in-

dividual efforts in most cases to develop research and field work.

II A Brief Review of 20 Years of Activities

After a year of preparation, JALAS was founded in 1980 with 160 founding members. The starting members who gathered to establish a new academic association were specialists in a variety of academic fields as seen in Table 1. From the very beginning JALAS had a surprisingly multidisciplinary characteristic. It is worth noting that the specialists in natural sciences comprised about 10%. It was apparently the University of Tsukuba that attracted a new frontier for Latin American studies. Out of the 21 members from Tsukuba (Table 2), more than half were specialists in hydrology, hygienics, pathology, physical geography, radiology and tropical agriculture. This university has been a unique academic institution since its foundation in 1975 to break traditional academism in Japan. As far as the research activities are concerned, it does not establish any permanent institutes nor

Table 1 160 Founding Members by Discipline

Economics	39	Education	2
History	26	Biology	1
Political Science	19	Business Administration	1
Literature	18	Ecology	1
Anthropology	9	Genetics	1
Human Geography	5	Hydrology	1
Linguistics	5	Hygienics	1
Migration Studies	5	Journalism	1
Physical Geography	5	Library Science	1
Sociology	5	Pathology	1
Laws	3	Radiology	1
Art	2	Tropical Diseases	1
Agriculture	2	Unspecified	2
Botany	2	Total	160

Source: JALAS 1980.

Table 2 160 Founding Members by Affiliation

University of Tsukuba	21
Sophia University	10
Institute of Developing Economies	8
Takushoku University	6
National Diet Library	4
Osaka University of Foreign Studies	4
University of Tokyo	4
Aoyama Gakuin University	3
Kyoto Sangyo University	3
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3
National Museum of Ethnology	3
Tokai University	3
Kanagawa University	3
Nanzan University	3
12 institutions have two members each.	24
41 institutions have one member each.	41
Graduate students	6
No affiliations	11
Total	160

Source: JALAS 1980.

centers but forms only groups on projects for a limited period of time. The Special Research Project on Latin American Studies (SRPLA) was established in 1978 inviting specialists from various fields. They organized research projects, established close relations with various international organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, and produced various types of publications. Although the project ended in 1985 and apparently its staffs and activities in Latin American studies decreased, it has contributed greatly to the development of Latin American studies in Japan by offering a variety of research projects and by training graduate students. The University of Tsukuba became the headquarters office of

JALAS for six years from 1988 through 1994 under two presidents as seen later in Table 7.

The first president of JALAS, Prof. Shozo Masuda, then professor of the University of Tokyo and now professor emeritus of the same university, stressed in his inaugural speech the necessity of keeping the open and liberal character of the association. This policy has been maintained by the executive council until now, and thus JALAS is open to anyone who has interest in Latin America. Those who want to join the Association will be admitted by the executive council if they present a recommendation and have substantial academic achievements. The second point that the first president stressed was the urgency to establish the means for making contacts with scholars on Latin America outside of Japan. Living under poorly equipped academic conditions, the Japanese specialists in Latin American studies indeed needed first-hand information on outside academic achievements. These two principles of keeping an open and liberal character and of establishing intimate relations with international institutions and scholars have been maintained. A great deal of efforts has been made to obtain funds to invite outstanding foreign scholars and other distinguished people as seen in Table 3.

At the inaugural meeting of JALAS in 1980 Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago, then-director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh as well as then-president of the Latin American Studies Association of the United States (LASA), was invited and made a commemorative speech before over 100 Japanese specialists on Latin America. Following Dr. Mesa-Lago, many prominent academic figures came to the annual congress of JALAS, not only from the United States but also from various countries of Latin America. Those invited scholars not only gave stimulating speeches at the annual congress of JALAS but also attended other gatherings to exchange ideas and opinions freely with Japanese specialists in Latin American

Table 3 Foreign Scholars Invited for JALAS

1980	Carmero Mesa-Lago (University of Pittsburgh, U. S. A.)
1981	Javier Zologuren Moreno (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Peru)
1985	Rafael Campo (Universidad Javeriana, Colombia)
1988	Martin C. Needler (University of New Mexico, U. S. A.)
1989	Barbara Starling (University of Wisconsin, U. S. A.)
1990	Peter Smith (University of California at San Diego, U. S. A.) James M. Malloy (University of Pittsburgh, U. S. A.) Mitchell A. Seligson (University of Pittsburgh, U. S. A.)
1991	F. Fajnzylber (United Nations ECLAC) Torcuato Di Tella (Universidad Torcuato, Argentina) Leopoldo Zea (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico)
1992	C.A. Vásquez Solano (Visiting Professor at Osaka University of Foreign Studies)
1993	Wayne A. Cornelius (University of California at San Diego, U. S. A.)
1994	Abraham Lowenthal (University of Southern California, U. S. A.)
1996	Omar Martínez Legorreta (El Colegio de México, Mexico)
1997	Francisco Zapata (El Colegio de México, Mexico)
1998	Gerardo della Paolera (Universidad Torcuato, Argentina)
1999	Peter Smith (University of California at San Diego, U. S. A.)
2000	Elena Poniatowska (Mexico)

studies. These occasions often resulted in organizing international research projects and maintaining valuable connections among the Japanese Latin-Americanists and foreign counterparts.

Organizing a symposium at the annual congress became an important event of JALAS. The first symposium was organized with the theme "Latin American Studies in Japan." Five speakers representing anthropology, literature, history, economics and medical science reviewed the situations of their own fields. They summed up well the situation of Japan's Latin American studies early in the 1980s (Yamazaki 1981). Table 4 shows the themes of the annual symposia for 20 years. The congress of 2000 is titled "Latin Amer-

Table 4 Themes of the Annual Symposia

Year	Themes
1980	Latin American Studies in Japan
1981	Latin America in the 1980s
1982	Indigenismo: Idea and Movement of the Revitalization of the Indigenous People in Latin America
1983	Urban and Rural Communities in Latin America
1984	Latin America under the Economic Crisis
1985	Democratization in Latin America of the 1980s
1986	Popular Expressions in Latin American Culture
1987	Dictators in Latin American Literature
1988	Central American Crisis and its Historical Background
1989	Division of Areas and Periods in Latin American Studies
1990	Images on and Education of Latin America
1991	Commemorative Symposia of the 10th Anniversary
	(1) Industrialization in Latin America
	(2) Transformation of Peronism
	(3) Challenges of Modernization and Positivism in Mexico
1992	500 Years of Latin America
1993	Japan and Latin America in New International Relations
1994	Urban Crisis in Latin America
1995	Present Conditions and Perspectives of Latin American Studies and the Educational System as the Area Study in Japan
1996	Regional Integration of Latin America
1997	Politics and Violence in Contemporary Latin America
1998	Asian Monetary and Economic Crisis and Latin America
1999	Catholicism in Latin American Societies
2000	Latin America: State and Civil Society in the Age of Globalization

ica: State and Civil Society in the Age of Globalization.” These themes demonstrate very well the interests and trend of Latin American studies of the past twenty years in Japan.

In 1982 JALAS obtained funds from the financial assistance program of the Japanese Ministry of Education to compile a directory of Japanese scholars of Latin American studies. The result of the funded project was published

in 1983 as the *Nihon Raten Amerika kenkyusha meikan* [Directory of Japanese Latin-Americanists] (JALAS 1983). With this work, we came to identify for the first time the Japanese Latin-Americanists; their disciplines, present and future subjects of research, countries of interest, field work, achievements and publications. This directory was not necessarily limited to the JALAS members. It included non-members who had been engaged in research projects on Latin America at that time.

According to this directory, the disciplines of 274 specialists who were interested in Latin America were identified as follows: 44 economists, 41 historians, 28 anthropologists, 24 specialists in literature, 17 political scientists, 14 sociologists, 13 physical geographers, 12 human geographers, and so on as seen in Table 5. Surprisingly a great variety of disciplines were found, and many specialists of non-social and non-human sciences were participating in

Table 5 Japanese Latin-Americanists by Discipline in 1982

Economics	44	Archaeology	2
History	41	City Planning	2
Anthropology	28	Education	2
Literature	24	Meteorology	2
Political Science	17	Religion	2
Sociology	14	Accounting	1
Physical Geography	13	Art	1
Human Geography	12	Athletics	1
Genetics	8	Biology	1
Linguistics	8	Hygienics	1
Law	7	Ichthyology	1
Medicine	7	Library Science	1
Botany	4	Migration Studies	1
Agriculture	3	Music	1
Arquitecture	3	Mycology	1
Business Administration	3	Unspecified	15
Ecology	3	Total	274

Source: JALAS 1983.

Table 6 Country of Interest of Japanese Latin-Americanists in 1982

Country		Country	
Mexico	83	Venezuela	8
Brazil	63	Portugal	6
Peru	50	Guatemala	5
Bolivia	30	Ecuador	3
Chile	24	Jamaica	1
Argentina	20	Panama	1
Spain	10	Paraguay	1
Colombia	9	Uruguay	1
Cuba	8		

Note: Some were interested in more than one country.

Source: JALAS 1983.

the field researches funded by the Ministry of Education. The country in which Japanese scholars were most interested was Mexico, followed by Brazil as seen in Table 6. This tendency has basically never changed. It is surprising, however, that Bolivia, Peru and Chile were paid much attention. This was mainly due to the various research projects of geographical and geological fields at that time.

As to the running of the Association, financial difficulties continued throughout the 1980s due to the limited number of its membership without any outside financial support. In 1985 the budget was in the red so membership fee was raised 40%. On this occasion a student membership fee was introduced so that young graduate students with limited resources could join. At the same time the executive council did its best to economize. Since then the membership fee has never been raised.

The annual congress of 1991 coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Association, and held special programs to commemorate the achievements of those 10 years of JALAS. Three symposia were organized with prominent participants from abroad such as Torcuato Di Tella from Argentina, F.

Fajnzyber from Chile and Leopoldo Zea from Mexico. These guest foreign scholars visited several institutions which have interest in Latin America to give speeches as is always programmed when foreign speakers are invited.

The financial resources to carry out programs of this international character were provided usually by the Japan Foundation and sometimes by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Association itself has very limited economic resources funded mainly by membership fees. It has gained so far only 12 supporting institutions to help the Association financially with special annual fees. With these funds, the Association with great difficulty carries out the routine operations: secretarial routine work, publication of bulletins three or four times a year plus annals, holding an annual congress, and supporting regional and occasional conferences. JALAS, however, has never failed to carry out these fundamental activities over these past twenty years. Meanwhile it has constantly attracted new members so as to have currently three times more members than twenty years ago.

Since 1995 JALAS has strengthened relations with the Latin American Studies Association of the United States (LASA), and during the six years from 1993 to 1998 JALAS positively encouraged its own members to become LASA members. This has provided Japanese scholars with a most stimulating impetus to broaden their academic experiences and research activities. In March 2000, when the 22nd International Congress of LASA was held in Miami, Florida, 15 Japanese registered to be members of LASA Section on Latin America and the Pacific Rim.

III Organization of JALAS

The executive council of JALAS consists of 10–12 representatives elected by the members every two years. A no re-election policy beyond two consecutive terms has been kept since its foundation. After the interim of

two terms (4 years), one may be re-elected. The members of the executive council had been chosen at large by the participants in the annual congress until 1998, but a new electoral system was applied in the election of 2000. It was carried out in April-May by a new system of voting by mail. In order to have representatives on the executive council from the three important regions: Eastern, Central and Western parts of Japan, consideration is taken to allotting at least one representative in each of the three regions.

The president is elected from among the members of the executive council. So far six presidents have served to administer the Association as seen in Table 7. The headquarters office of JALAS has rotated with the presidents so that the institution to which the president belongs houses the headquarters office. Without special consideration or any financial assistance from the home institution as is the custom in Japan, every president has managed routine operations with great difficulty. Thus at the annual congress of 1997 the executive council obtained approval by the ordinary general assembly to entrust the Business Center for Academic Societies Japan, which functions as an office for academic associations, with most of the routine work. Thus in April 1998, a new operational system started, and it

Table 7 Presidents of JALAS and Their Affiliation

1980—82	Shozo MASUDA (Anthropology)	University of Tokyo
1982—84	Shozo MASUDA	
1984—86	Kazuhiko NAKAGAWA (Law)	Seijo University
1986—88	Kazuhiko NAKAGAWA	
1988—90	Akio HOSONO (Economics)	University of Tsukuba
1990—92	Akio HOSONO	
1992—94	Mutsuo YAMADA (History)	University of Tsukuba
1994—96	Mutsuo YAMADA	National Museum of Ethnology
1996—98	Hiroshi MATSUSHITA (Political Science)	Kobe University
1998—2000	Iyo KUNIMOTO (History)	Chuo University

has dramatically reduced the work of the headquarters office.

The executive council is obligated to have at least two regular meetings a year to make decisions on various matters. Extraordinary meetings can be called by two-thirds of the council members. The members of the executive council take on at least one of five different assignments; finance, editorial work of annals, publication of bulletins, international public relations, and regional conferences. Internal public relations are usually handled by the president.

Regional activities are organized by the executive members of each of the three regions. The most important activities are two regional conferences to be held each year in spring and autumn. The spring conferences are specifically assigned to graduate students to present their achievements based on their master's theses. In addition, several special gatherings are called when prominent foreign scholars visit Japan.

As mentioned before, JALAS publishes annals and bulletins. The annals have been published yearly without any delay for the past 20 years, and the latest issue is the second special annals in which all the articles appear either in English, Spanish or Portuguese for the purpose of making its activities known abroad. Articles and research notes in English, Spanish and Portuguese are, however, accepted in regular annals as well. The editorial board screens the manuscripts for the annals. The members of JALAS have the right to receive a copy of the annals, and the annals are also sent to several foreign institutions on an exchange basis.

Publishing the bulletins is considered another important task of the executive council. They are published three or four times a year depending on the policy of each executive council. Besides announcements from the executive council and the headquarters office, information on domestic and international activities related to Latin American studies are provided. Book

reviews of the members are also included.

Fiscal matters are always delicate problems that any academic association may have. The membership fee is set for four categories: regular members, regular student members, associate-members, and supporting corporation members. The first two members are given full membership status, including voting rights. The latter two categories, however, are limited to receiving publications and the right to attend conferences. Associate-members are those who reside outside of Japan.

In 1999 JALAS opened its own website to announce its activities. The website address is [<http://www.soc.nacsis.ac.jp/ajel/>]. The index of the past annals for 20 years, present activities and announcements can be checked on its homepage. Also an application form for membership can be pulled down and mailed to the headquarters office.

IV Latin American Studies in Japan as of 2000: An Overview of JALAS Members

As of April 2000 JALAS had 483 members whose disciplines and countries of interest are seen in Table 8 and Table 9, respectively.

Table 8 shows that JALAS is a multidisciplinary academic association although it has lost the conspicuously multidisciplinary characteristics that it had in 1980 (See Table 1). JALAS of the year 2000 has lost most of its founding members in natural sciences, but it has strengthened in the fields of social sciences and humanities. History is the most popular discipline and its proportion of members has increased from 16% in 1980 to 21% in 2000. On the contrary, economics, the most popular discipline in 1980, has decreased its proportional importance. It is also notable that economics, anthropology, political science and literature are well balanced in the number of specialists.

The countries in which the members have interest are seen in Table 9.

Table 8 JALAS Members by Discipline in 2000

History	101	Art	3
Economics	68	Ecology	3
Anthropology	66	Theology	3
Political Science	65	Architecture	2
Literature	57	Philosophy	2
Sociology	34	Accounting	1
Geography	14	Biology	1
Linguistics	12	Business Administration	1
Education	10	Information Science	1
Law	7	Library Science	1
Archaeology	5	Unspecified	21
Religion	5	Total	483

Sources: JALAS 1998 and Bulletins, no. 67-71.

Table 9 Country of Interest of JALAS Members in 2000

Mexico	131	Cuba	12
Brazil	71	Guatemala	11
Peru	48	Venezuela	8
Argentina	34	Nicaragua	5
Chile	25	Portugal	5
Spain	20	Costa Rica	3
Bolivia	19	Ecuador	3
Colombia	15	Paraguay	3

Source: JALAS 1998 and Bulletin, no. 67-74.

The figures are a simple accumulation indicated by the members. Mexico is the country that attracts most of the Japanese scholars. Following Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Argentina and Chile rank in that order among the popular Latin American countries studied in Japan. Compared with Table 6, it is quite noticeable that there is no fundamental change in the trend of interests over these twenty years. There are, however, some differences in approaches and subjects studied in Mexico and Brazil. In case of Mexico, Japanese scholars are found in almost every academic field, while Brazilian specialists are con-

centrated in economics. This tendency can be attributed to the fact that the bilateral Japan-Mexico exchange program of students has contributed to the establishment of a solid basis to produce Japanese specialists in Mexican studies.

A new tendency is also found that subregional studies are preferred to a country study. Central America, the Caribbean region, the Andean region, the La Plata area and the Amazonian region are more popularly selected than before. The Caribbean studies, in particular, attract young scholars to the extent that they organized the Tsukuba Society of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and have published the review of *Latin American and Caribbean Studies* since 1994. All the members of this Society are also active members of JALAS.

Table 10 shows the institutions to which JALAS members belonged as of March 2000. Compared with Table 2, the development and weakening of Latin American studies programs are noticeable in some institutions. The most conspicuous is the case of the University of Tsukuba. While having 21 members in 1980, it now has only 6 members. The number of graduate student members is also limited. It is apparently due to the end of the Special Research Project on Latin American Studies in 1985, and some of the researchers have moved to other institutions.

The development of Latin American studies programs in some private universities can also be noted in Table 10. Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Sophia University, Tenri University, Keio University, Kanagawa University, Takushoku University, Teikyo University, Doshisha University, Kyoto Sangyo University and Hosei University are all private institutions. These private universities not only have regular members but also some have graduate student members. Among them Kyoto University of Foreign Studies is most conspicuous in its emergence as one of the important institutions of Latin

Table 10 Affiliation of the Members of JALAS in 2000

Institutions	Regular Member	Student Member
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	13	1
Sophia University	11	9
National Museum of Ethnology	10	
Institute of Developing Economies	10	
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	10	4
Japan External Trade Organization	7	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	7	
Tenri University	7	
Keio University	6	4
Osaka University of Foreign Studies	6	4
University of Tokyo	6	11
University of Tsukuba	6	4
Doshisha University	5	
Hosei University	5	1
Kyoto Sangyo University	5	
Takushoku University	5	
Teikyo University	5	
Kanagawa University	5	
Nagoya University	5	14
Aoyama Gakuin University	4	
Kobe City University of Foreign Studies	4	3
Nanzan University	4	
Nihon University	4	
Ritsumeikan University	4	1
Aichi Prefectural University	3	
Josai International University	3	
Kobe University	3	5
Niigata University	3	
Tobacco and Salt Museum	3	
Tokai University	3	
University of the Ryukyus	3	
Waseda University	3	1
22 institutions have two regular members.	44	2
68 institutions have one regular member.	68	2
Private companies	26	
Public organizations	5	
High school teachers	9	
No affiliations	73	
Overseas and Others	8	6
Total	411	72

Source: JALAS 1998 and Bulletin, no. 67-74.

American studies although it is apparently still weak in graduate education. It has the Center for Mexican Studies, established in 1980. Keio University is another notable case in the number of both regular and graduate student members. It has the Center for Area Studies, in which various research projects are organized.

Among the national institutions, the National Museum of Ethnology has developed a section for Latin American Studies with two full-time researchers besides eight anthropologists whose interests are in Latin America. This institution has become one of the core centers of Latin American studies in Japan besides the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE). IDE and the Japan External Trade Organization were integrated into one organization in 1998, which has also moved to a new location. The integrated new agency of these two organizations has 17 members of JALAS and it is the single largest institution of JALAS member. While 24 institutions have more than 4 JALAS members, there are 22 universities that have two members and 68 universities that have only one. Members are found almost all over Japan from Hokkaido to the Ryukyu Islands.

As to education in Latin American studies, the actual situation can be reviewed from Table 10 that also shows the number of graduate student members of JALAS. Nagoya University and Keio University are newcomers that seem to be growing as important centers of Latin American studies, judging from the fact that they have increased the number of JALAS members. The former, a national university, established the graduate courses: Department of International Development in 1991 and Department of International Languages and Cultures in 1998. These new departments apparently attract graduate students. Those universities such as Sophia University, the University of Tokyo and Osaka University of Foreign Studies have maintained their solid base for education in Latin American studies. It is, however,

still a limited number of universities that can train young students in Latin American studies in Japan.

V Concluding Note

Progress in Latin American studies in Japan has been significant over the past twenty years. The number of specialists in Latin American studies has increased and most of them have obviously obtained secure professional positions. It is, however, regrettable that the programs and achievements in Latin American studies are still weak in Japan. The academic conditions that were pointed out in 1973 (Andrade 1973), have not changed much in 2000. There does not yet exist an integrated research center for Latin American studies nor core universities that can offer integrated programs on Latin America in Japan. Such universities as Sophia University and the University of Tokyo are far from the centers of integrated area studies of Latin America.

The most important reason for this weakness in Japan's Latin American studies may lie in the fact that Japan has never had vital trade and political interests in that area. In particular, the proportion of trade has constantly decreased to below 5% of Japan's total exports and imports since the 1970s. And Japan's investments and business activities with Latin American countries have been inactive since the 1980s when Latin American countries suffered a severe economic crisis. These factors have naturally affected the popularity of Latin America in research in Japan.

Another important factor of the weakness of Latin American studies in Japan can be found in the fact that the government has never provided strong support to establish Latin American studies. Even at the end of the 20th century, there exist neither integrated research libraries nor institutions for Latin American studies in Japan that can be compared with those attached to many universities in the United States and in some European

countries. Contrary to the European experiences in which the central governments played an important role (Mesa-Lago n.d.), the development of Latin American studies in Japan has depended mostly on individual and personal efforts and contributions. In this sense JALAS, which has attracted most of the Japanese specialists on Latin America, may be evaluated to have played a central role in the promotion and development in this area.

Under Japanese academic and economic conditions as of the end of the twentieth century, there is little prospect that the government will be the main promotor and supporter of Latin American studies in the near future. We can, however, see a slight prospect as already pointed out that some universities such as Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Nagoya University and Keio University may support and develop Latin American studies along with Sophia University and the University of Tokyo.

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