Toward the Internationalization of Manga Education: A Report on Overseas Workshops on How to Draw Manga

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The author has been in charge of Workshop and Program Planning at the Kyoto International Manga Museum since the Museum opened in 2006. The aim of workshops and programs offered by the Museum is to give participants direct experience in learning to draw manga. One outcome of this has been the development of a number of new programs in manga education aimed at reaching a wider range of learners, including extra-curricular elementary and middle school students, aspiring manga artists, and international visitors.

This paper discusses three examples of programs carried out overseas in which instruction in drawing manga was offered. (The workshops were jointly sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the Kyoto International Manga Museum.) Their aim was to engage participants in international exchange through manga while helping them gain a deeper appreciation of manga as one form of Japanese culture. The first program was held at the Japan Foundation, Madrid, the second at the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris (Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris), and the third at the Japan Foundation, Budapest. A three-day workshop on how to draw manga was offered at each venue. In each case, interaction with the participants led to vibrant discussion about the history and present state of Japanese manga and the world of manga publishing. These case studies shed light on the extent to which Japanese manga have spread overseas and ways in which they are being read and received; at the same time, they provide insight into possible future directions for the internationalization of manga education.