

Jon D. Mills

Jon D. Mills has been doing Asia-related work for more than twenty-five years. Currently, he is Manager of the Harvard University Asia Center where he organizes research projects, cosponsored programs, and other activities with the eleven schools of Harvard University and counterpart institutions in Asia. Each year he makes multiple visits to the region, including Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Malaysia. Previously, Mills was East Asia Representative in the central administration of Harvard University. Among his duties were to arrange interchanges for the Harvard Corporation, President, Provost, deans, or faculty with leaders of government, business, academia, and other institutions in Asia. He developed the agenda for these meetings and often served as the interpreter when in Japan or on the occasion of high-level visits to Harvard from Japan. Prior to that, Mills was the Administrative Director of the Harvard Program on U.S.-Japan Relations.

Mills is also a Principal of HAG, a consultancy which advises individuals and institutions on building and expanding relationships and opportunities in the United States and in East and Southeast Asia. Before coming to Harvard, Mills established and operated a commercial real estate development firm in Boston.

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts in Boston with a double degree in English and Asian Studies, Magna Cum Laude, Mills spent two years working in Japan as an educational program developer in Nagano-ken. He returned to the United States for graduate school in the Department of Asian Studies at Cornell University, where he earned an M.A. As part of that program, he studied for a year at the Inter-University Center in Tokyo and earned a Japanese language proficiency certification.