

No. 2

AUTUMN

2002

JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Quarterly



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External Review Conducted

In February of this year, JSPS established a review committee within its Advisory Council for the purpose of conducting an external review of its operations and programs. To carry out this review, the committee met over the period of 17-19 June 2002. The review had two principal objectives: (1) to exercise public accountability with regard to JSPS's activities, and (2) to seek ways to enhance and further develop those activities.

On the first day of the committee meeting, the members received an explanation of the conditions surrounding scientific research in Japan, were given an overview of JSPS's programs, held talks with Japanese researchers,

and visited research facilities. In the following two days, the committee held intensive discussions; and lastly, the members presented a summary of their deliberations.

Presently, the committee chair is compiling the review findings into a draft report, which when completed and unanimously approved by all the committee members, will be submitted as the review report to the Advisory Council.

Details of the external review will be covered in a subsequent issue of this newsletter after the committee's report is officially released.

Review Committee Members

Chair	Prof. Akito Arima	Member of the House of Councilors; Former President of University of Tokyo; Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo
Acting Chair	Prof. Neal Lane	University Professor, Rice University; Former Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Former Director of National Science Foundation
	Sir Michael Berridge	Associate Director for Research Strategy at the Babraham Institute; Honorary Professor, University of Cambridge; Fellow of the Royal Society
	Dr. Tsuneo Nakahara	Adviser, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.
	Prof. Erling Norrby	Secretary General, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
	Dr. Heinrich Pfeiffer	Former Secretary General, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
	Prof. Hiroyuki Torii	Editorial Writer, Nihon Keizai Shimbun; Professor, Research Laboratory for Nuclear Reactors, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Project Selections Announced Under 21st Century COE Program

This fiscal year, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the 21st Century COE Program. In July, the first call was made for project applications. The Program's selection committee—established within JSPS and chaired by Dr. Leo Esaki, president, Shibaura Institute of Technology—was convened to deliberate the proposals. On 2 October, the committee reported its results to MEXT.

The 21st Century COE Program seeks to establish within Japanese universities field-specific research and education bases at the apex of world excellence. Support is focused on elevating research standards at the participating universities and fostering creative young people capable of becoming future world leaders in their respective fields. Ultimately, the Program works to promote the development of universities with a distinct institutional identity and a strong capacity to compete internationally. Differing from Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, which are mainly awarded to individual researchers, this

Program concentrates its funding on the organizational level, namely, the creation of research and education centers of excellence. Eligibility is limited to doctoral-level graduate schools and departments at national, public or private universities.

Application for the grant is filed by the president of the university. The reason for this is because choosing a graduate school or department within the university and developing it into a COE of the highest world standard will necessitate a management system led by the university's president.

This fiscal year, applications were solicited in five categories: life sciences; chemistry, material sciences; information sciences, electrical and electronic engineering; humanities; and interdisciplinary, combined fields, new disciplines. Altogether, 464 applications were submitted by 163 universities. The selection committee chose 113 proposals from 50 universities to fund as new research

and education COEs. A breakdown by category is shown in the graph below.

In the selection process, three documents in the application package were reviewed:

- (1) Record of research/education activity and achievement in the subject field
- (2) Plan for establishing the COE
- (3) Future vision by the university

Moreover, consideration was given to the applicant's ability to meet the following four expectations:

- (1) To produce excellent research results in the subject field; possess the potential for enhanced capacity in the future; and have the capability to foster people who can do highly advanced research.
- (2) To establish a COE that, under a management setup led by the university president, is capable of carrying out research and education at the world's highest level through a powerful capacity to implement highly original future plans.
- (3) To yield both creative and epochal results through the pioneering of markedly unique academic disciplines.
- (4) To continue their research and education activities at the highest world standard after the Program has ended.

As to the selection process itself, both document and panel reviews, which took into account expert opinions sub-

mitted by referees, were carried out. Then, hearings with the university president and leading researchers involved were conducted.

In this process, consideration was not given to the scale of the proposed COE, but rather to the distinctive nature of the research it plans to pursue. As a result, both national universities in outlying regions and private universities were also chosen to receive grants.

Through this selection process, 84 grants were made to national universities (74%), four to public universities (4%), and 25 to private universities (22%). The amount of the grants awarded to the graduate schools or departments of these selected universities was determined by MEXT. Funding for this fiscal year totaled approximately ¥16.7 billion [\$139 million], for an average of ¥150 million [\$1.3 million] per project. As to the categories, life sciences received the most grants, totaling ¥4.8 billion [\$40 million], while humanities receiving the least at ¥1.9 billion [\$16 million]. National universities received approximately ¥13 billion [\$108 million] (78%); public universities, ¥500 million [\$4 million] (3%); and private universities, ¥3 billion [\$25 million] (19%).

In the next fiscal year, a new recruitment and selection is scheduled for the other five grant categories, including medical sciences, in this 10-category program.

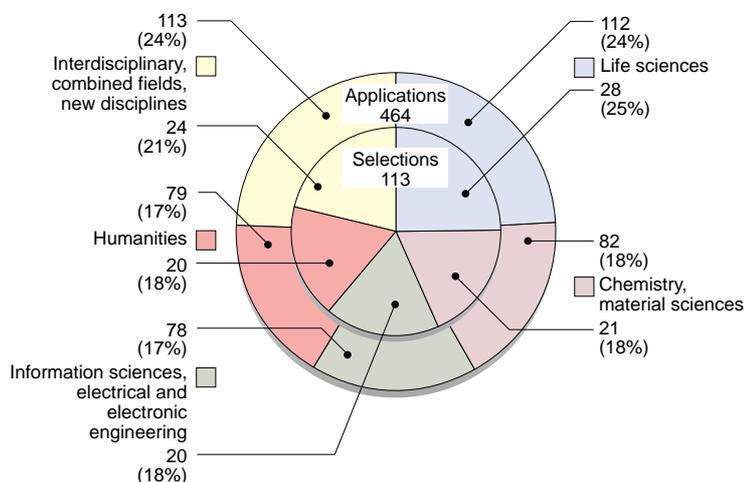
*One US dollar=120 yen

FY2002 Applications and Selections in Each Category by University Types

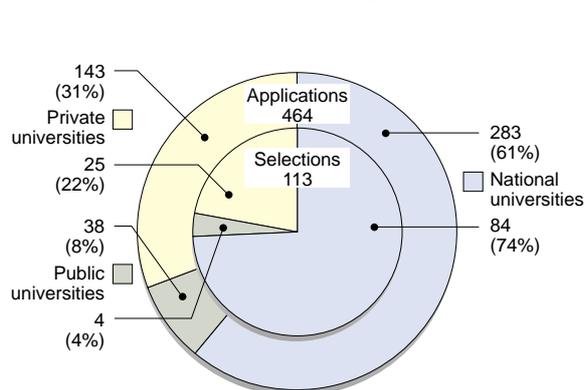
Universities		Categories											
		Life sciences		Chemistry, material sciences		Information sciences, electrical and electronic engineering		Humanities		Interdisciplinary, combined fields, new disciplines		Total	
National	Applied	66	(43)	54	(44)	49	(41)	39	(23)	75	(46)	283	(76)
	Selected	21	(16)	18	(12)	15	(12)	13	(10)	17	(15)	84	(31)
Public	Applied	11	(11)	5	(5)	6	(6)	8	(7)	8	(8)	38	(21)
	Selected	1	(1)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(1)	2	(2)	4	(4)
Private	Applied	35	(26)	23	(22)	23	(19)	32	(27)	30	(24)	143	(66)
	Selected	6	(6)	3	(3)	5	(5)	6	(5)	5	(5)	25	(15)
Total	Applied	112	(80)	82	(71)	78	(66)	79	(57)	113	(78)	464	(163)
	Selected	28	(23)	21	(15)	20	(17)	20	(16)	24	(22)	113	(50)

Note: Figures in parentheses are number of universities.

Applications and Selections by Grant Categories



Applications and Selections by University Types



10th Anniversary Celebrated of JSPS Liaison Office, Bonn

On 12 September, a commemoration celebration was held at the Hotel Königshof in Bonn to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the JSPS's liaison office in Germany.

At the opening, congratulatory messages were given by Mr. Issei Nomura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, Mr. Hartmut Krebs, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Research, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Dr. Manfred Osten, secretary general, A.v. Humboldt Foundation. Mr. Nomura remarked on education in Japanese universities, while Mr. Krebs spoke about support within Germany for the office's program "JSPS Science Fair—Research Opportunities in Japan." Dr. Osten handed JSPS director general Mr. Tei-ichi Sato an invitation to the Humboldt Foundation's 50th anniversary celebration. Each of these messages was not only elegant but pregnant with meaning. The session closed with remarks on behalf of JSPS by Mr. Sato.

In response to these words of congratulation, the Bonn office's director Prof. Yasuo Tanaka looked back over the course of office's 10-year history and expressed his appreciation to all the German organizations that have sup-

ported and lent their assistance to its operation and programs. He also stated his aspiration for even closer relations with these counterparts and friends in decades to come.

Between Brahms interludes by Cuarteto Casals, Dr. Sumio Iijima delivered the keynote address. One of the world's leading researchers in the field of nano-technology, Dr. Iijima is a professor in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Meijo University.

The ceremony was topped off with a dinner party on the banks of the Rhine. Witty opening remarks by Dr. Uwe Czarnetzki, chair of the JSPS Club (alumni association) and professor at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, set an amicable tone for the event.

Altogether, some 100 people participated in the ceremony, the majority of them being researchers who live in the Bonn vicinity and had in the past received a fellowship or other JSPS support, in addition to staffs and researchers affiliated with JSPS's counterpart organizations in Germany.



History of Bonn office presented by Prof. Yasuo Tanaka

Interview with Dr. Uwe Czarnetzki, Chair of JSPS Alumni Club in Germany

Taking the opportunity provided by the tenth anniversary celebration of JSPS's Bonn liaison office, an interview was held with Dr. Uwe Czarnetzki, co-founder and chair of the JSPS German Fellows' alumni association (nicknamed the JSPS Club). The Bonn office was established in 1991 and the JSPS Club in 1995. It is the first and, currently, only JSPS alumni association to be launched in the world; and from its inception, has been led by Dr. Czarnetzki.

Dr. Czarnetzki is presently a full professor at Bochum University, where he specializes in experimental physics with particular emphasis on plasma and atomic physics. He came to Japan as a JSPS postdoctoral researcher in 1992-93 because, as he said, "Japan is one of the leading nations in the world in this field and is extremely strong in research on plasma physics, both fusion orientated and low temperature plasmas, and last but not least is very fast at developing industrial applications from scientific results." In Japan, he conducted research under the JSPS fellowship at Kyushu University, and up to today continues to maintain close and "lively" contacts with Japan's scientific community.

As the JSPS alumni club that Dr. Czarnetzki and his colleagues established in Germany constitutes a trailblazing undertaking that former JSPS fellows in other countries may wish to emulate, we asked Dr. Czarnetzki the following series of questions about how the JSPS Club was conceived and organized and how it currently operates.

What motivated you to form the JSPS Club?

There were actually a few reasons that motivated not only me but also the other founding members at the time. First of all, we all had good experiences in Japan, both personally and scientifically. So we regretted the idea of losing our contact with Japan when our fellowships ended. Secondly, we wanted to do something in order to support other young researchers and liked the idea behind the JSPS fellowship. It all started with an informal meeting of former fellows that was organized by the director of the Bonn liaison office in April 1995. There, the idea of creating an alumni organization was discussed for the first time. Shortly afterwards, I wrote a letter to former JSPS fellows in Germany to survey their interest in starting up an alumni club, which was mailed out by the Bonn office. The response was quite enthusiastic, so I knew that we were on the right track.

In laying the foundations for the Club, a lot of email discussion went back and forth among us. By the time the first meeting of the founding members was held in Bonn in the summer of 1995, we had already done lots of the preparation work in advance. Nevertheless, we had very intense discussions. All in all, this first meeting was in fact extremely efficient. Starting early in the morning, the entire job was completed by late afternoon. We had our bylaws written down, the Club's first board was elected and approved, and we had an initial idea of



Dr. Uwe Czarnetzki

how we should proceed and what activities we should start with. Everyone was quite exhausted by the end of the day, but we were all very happy with what we had just initiated. It was a very emotional moment.

I hear you registered the Club. Could you tell us about that?

After we set up the Club, I went to a lawyer and notary public to certify everything; so the Club was formally established. We had to send our bylaws to the financial office of Bonn's city government to officially register the Club. Since the Club works for the public good and is not for making money, we obtained an exemption from paying taxes.

Talking about money, how do you finance the Club? Do you collect membership dues?

For many of our activities, we receive support from JSPS. As for our operating funds, yes, we collect fees from the Club members. Annual dues are only 50 Euro. As to expenditures, they vary from year to year. When we have a culture program at the annual symposium, the Club often pays for it. There are additional expenses such as for other events, fellowships or books. Normally, our income-expense ledger is balanced.

How many members does the Club have? How many join and leave each year?

The Club has quite a stable membership of more than 100 members. Every year, about five people leave and five others join. The reason why members leave is very individual, though I don't recall anyone doing so out of dissatisfaction with the Club itself. To increase the membership, it would be extremely useful if we could get the names of returning German fellows from JSPS's central office in Tokyo. That would allow us to contact them and invite them to our annual meetings.

I see. We are currently updating the Bonn office's database. Who, by the way, is qualified to be a Club member?

We have two kinds of memberships: a "full member" who can vote and stand as a candidate for Club office, and a "member" who is not eligible to do so. Up till now, only former JSPS fellows have been accepted for full membership. From next year on, we will also accept former STA (Science and Technology Agency) fellows as full members.

Does the Club have any distinguished members?

Many of our club members are highly respected scientists known very well within their respective worldwide communities. Moreover, I would say that about half of the members are professors at German universities.

Tell us about the unique nature of the Club.

The Club is a kind of family. Many of our members attend the Bonn office's symposia. One of the Club's most important aspects is that it is an association of people who know each other well. Our members come from various fields of science, and so collectively we have a broad base of knowledge among us. This makes for a very unique, stimulating, and dynamic atmosphere. Furthermore, people going to Japan enter and experience a quite different culture. If you stay there for long, it touches you somewhere deep inside. This makes our fellows distinct from others, e.g. those going to the US. Together, I believe these are the reasons why the Club was founded and why people stay interested.

What kind of activities does the Club plan and carry out?

There is quite a list. In brief and without a particular order: Together with the Bonn office and with the support of JSPS and collaboration of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, we organize annual scientific Japanese-German symposia. Regularly, we publish books with articles by leading scientists on the content of these symposia. We have also created a kind of network for supporting fellow tutors in Germany. On another level, we have established a task force to work on ideas to promote and expand German participation in JSPS's fellowship programs. One result of this effort has been the establishment of a dedicated homepage about research in Japan. We also offer small travel grants to Japanese researchers who come to Germany for the purpose of inviting them to our members' institutions to give talks or to discuss research collaborations. Furthermore, we offer advice to new fellows before they go to Japan and also to fellows returning to Germany. The list goes on, but I think this gives you the flavor of our activities.

How do you plan your activities and communicate among yourselves?

The board members meet regularly, about four times a year. We basically keep in contact all the time by email and phone. We hold an annual meeting of the Club members. The Bonn office is extremely supportive, which is very appreciated as the Club itself does not have any permanent staff. The office publishes a newsletter in which we regularly have our own page to disseminate information on what is going on in the Club. We also write letters to all the members, because some of the older members and members living in the countryside do not

have access to the Internet for receiving email. Through our letters, we inform the members of new activities or ask for their help in certain activities such as our task force.

How do you carry out your PR activities?

Our own PR activities are not very strong. What little we do is concentrated on people who have relations with Japan. We consider it more important to do some PR for JSPS. For example, we have a poster of JSPS's symbolic rooster that is displayed at conferences together with some flyers in order to advertise JSPS programs. The Club invites new fellows to join by talking to researchers with Japan experience at conferences, symposia (including our own) or meetings. As I mentioned before, we do not have our own newsletter but use a page of the Bonn office's to get the word out and attract new members. It has a wide distribution, not only to Club members but also to JSPS fellows in general as well as to organizations associated with JSPS in Germany. Moreover, we distribute a membership list ever year.

Does the Club have its own database?

No, we are allowed to use the fellow database compiled by the Bonn office. It is very useful to us in sending out letters.

Have you experienced any problems in carrying out the Club activities?

No problems per se, but I think the Club should do much more in the future. When former STA fellows join the Club from next year on, and they are not a small number, our membership will increase substantially. We also need to do more to encourage German researchers to take advantage of JSPS's programs to conduct research in Japan. The number of researchers going to Japan is rather small due to several reasons. One is that in Germany, there is at present a rather small number of students majoring in the natural sciences at the universities. This is a big problem, not only for research at the universities, but also for the JSPS fellowship program which is used predominately by Ph.Ds in these fields. To increase the number of German scientists will be a very big challenge for the future, one in which the Club must be engaged.

Do you have any advice to researchers who may be thinking of establishing a JSPS alumni club in other countries?

Yes, if they want to have an effective scientific exchange between their country and Japan, they must create societies that have strong connections with Japan. An alumni club is such a society, one through which advice is given to researchers who will go to Japan, news and information on circumstances in Japan are distributed, and other related activities can be carried out. Our example in Germany has demonstrated that initially it is necessary for a small number of determined people to form a condensation center, and that such a "grain" is sufficient to generate a rapid growth process. If you stimulate it and give it an opportunity to take root, other fellows will soon join in. We'd be happy to give interested colleagues in other countries our advice on how to get started and avoid some of the pitfalls.

2002 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology

This year's Prize was awarded to Dr. Masatoshi Nei, professor at Pennsylvania State University. On 17 September, the Committee on the International Prize for Biology (chaired by Dr. Saburo Nagakura, president of the Japan Academy) selected Dr. Nei as the 2002 Prize recipient based on the recommendation of the Prize's selection committee. The specialization of the Prize rotates annually, with this year's being "biology of evolution."

Dr. Nei is one of the main architects of the theoretical framework underpinning today's research in molecular evolutionary biology. His contributions include the development of techniques to study genetic diversity in populations and evolutionary relationships among species at the molecular level, including methods of establishing the times of divergence of different species and detecting gene regions in which natural selection takes place. In pioneering this field of research, Dr. Nei developed various new statistical methods and applied them to molecular data. These methods have made it possible to obtain quantitative estimates of various parameters of evolutionary importance that could not be measured experimentally. While generating and sharing new data on the molecular level of evolutionary biology, Dr. Nei has contributed greatly to the birth of molecular evolutionary biology and to its establishment as an empirical science in which hypotheses can be verified quantitatively, rather than being discussed solely on a conceptual level.



Dr. Masatoshi Nei

A ceremony to award the Prize to Dr. Nei was held at the Japan Academy, located in Tokyo's Ueno Park, on 2 December. To celebrate Dr. Nei's receipt of the Prize, a commemorative international symposium, the eighteenth in the series to date, was held at Odaiba, Tokyo, over the 2-day period of 3-4 December.

International Prize for Biology

The endowment for the International Prize for Biology was established in 1985 in commemoration of Emperor Showa's 60th year of reign and in recognition of his long years of devotion to biological research. The Prize's purpose is to encourage and promote research in fields spanning the domain of biology. Each year, the Prize is awarded in a chosen field to a world-renowned scientist who has made superlative contributions to the advancement of biology.

Selection of the recipient is conducted by the Committee on the International Prize for Biology. Established under it is a selection committee, chaired this year by Dr. Kunio Iwatsuki, professor, University of the Air, and comprising 18 other members including four from overseas. This committee sends out requests for candidate nominations to academic institutions and individual researchers specializing in the year's subject field of biology. Altogether, these constitute some 1,800 mailing addresses both in Japan and abroad. Carefully deliberating the candidates nominated, the selection committee chooses, as a rule, one to recommend as the year's prize recipient. (This year saw 51 nominations received for candidates hailing from 14 countries, or 37 nominees after adjustment was made for duplications.) Then, based on the selection committee's recommendation, the Committee on the International Prize for Biology makes the final decision as to the year's Prize recipient.

JSPS serves as the executive secretariat of the Committee on the International Prize for Biology. The Prize's en-

Profile

Born: January 1931 in Miyazaki, Japan
Nationality: U.S. citizen
1994-Present: Evan Pugh Professor of Biology,
Pennsylvania State University
1990-Present: Director, Institute of Molecular
Evolutionary Genetics, Pennsylvania
State University
1990-1994: Distinguished Professor of Biology,
Pennsylvania State University
1972-1990: Professor of Population Genetics,
University of Texas at Houston
1969-1972: Associate Professor to Professor of
Biology, Brown University
1962-1969: Geneticist, National Institute of
Radiological Sciences, Chiba, Japan
1958-1962: Assistant Professor, Kyoto University
1959: Received Ph.D. from Kyoto University
1953: Received BS from Miyazaki University

dowment is established within JSPS, which applies contributions from corporations and individual donors to the Committee's operation.

At the ceremony, a certificate, medal, imperial gift, and the prize of 10-million yen are presented to the recipient.

Both the ceremony and the accompanying reception party are attended each year by Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Detailed information can be found on JSPS's homepage.
[<http://www.jsps.go.jp/e-biol/main.html>]

Orientation Program for Newly Arriving Fellows

Over the period of 4-6 September, an orientation program was conducted in Tokyo for 60 newly arriving fellows under the Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers Program. It was the fourth such orientation to be conducted so far in the current fiscal year. During the first two days, lectures were given by JSPS executive director Prof. Kenichi Iga; Dr. Tokio Kenneth Ohsaka, Associate Professor, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization and Head, International Collaboration Office; Dr. John C. Maher, Professor, International Christian University; and Dr. Kotoku Kurachi, Director, Age Dimension Research Center, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and Professor, University of Michigan.

After each lecture, they spoke on the state of research in Japan and research activities on slate for the future. The attending fellows engaged in active discussions with the lecturers and among themselves, forming interpersonal ties and connections.

In addition, cultural experiences were arranged for the participants: a Tokyo Bay cruise on a "yakatabune" (a traditional "roofed flatboat") was held on the second evening, and a sightseeing tour of Kamakura (the ancient seat of the shogunate) was made on the last day.

Held by JSPS at the beginning of the participants' research tenures in Japan, these orientations are aimed at providing the fellows with information on research systems in Japan; Japanese universities, institutes and other research institutions; Japanese language learning; and Japan's culture and customs. JSPS sends out invitations to newly arriving fellows to attend these orientations, seven of which to be attended by some 400 fellows are scheduled for FY2002.

The purpose of JSPS's Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers Program is to assist postdocs in advancing their individual research, while contributing to the promotion of science in both Japan and the participating countries. To this end, young postdocs from around the



Lecture delivered by Prof. Kenichi Iga

world are received at Japanese host institutions, where they are provided opportunities to do joint work under the guidance of senior Japanese researchers.

The term of this fellowship is from 12 to 24 months. The following two methods of application are provided:

- 1) A Japanese researcher wishing to host a fellow applies to JSPS through his university or institution
- 2) A foreign researcher wishing to receive a fellowship applies through JSPS's nominating authority in his/her country

With regard to the second method, "nominating authorities" are institutions that have signed agreements with JSPS to conduct recruiting and nominating functions for the Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers Program in their respective countries. For application details, nominating authorities should be contacted directly. A list of these authorities with their contact information can be found on JSPS's homepage.

[http://www.jsps.go.jp/e-fellow/long_list.html]

For details regarding the program, including content description, recruitment information, and application methods and formats, see the following section of JSPS's homepage:

[<http://www.jsps.go.jp/e-fellow/postdoctral.html>]

First Asian Science Seminar Held in Middle East

Under the auspice of UNESCO, a project called SESAME (International Centre for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) is being implemented with an aim of creating the first international scientific research institute in the Middle East. It has been decided that Jordan will host the project, with the location of facility being in Alaan, 30 kilometers west of Jordan's capital Amman. SESAME's core component is a 2 GeV synchrotron-light source of 120 meters in circumference.

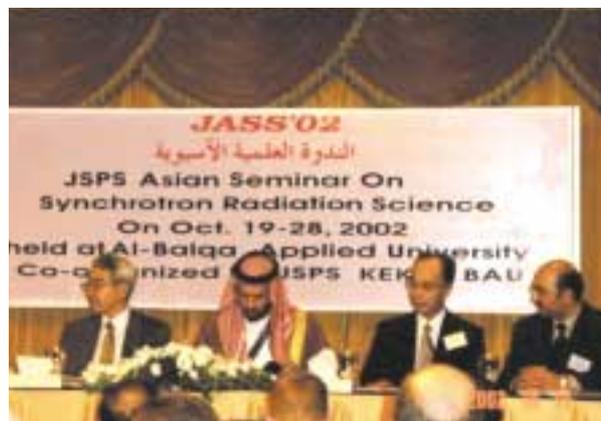
In support of the SESAME project, JSPS and KEK (Japan's High Energy Accelerator Research Organization) organized a seminar titled "JSPS Asian Science Seminar on Synchrotron Radiation Science," which was held on 19-28 October. Al-Balqa' Applied University of Jordan acted as the co-organizing institute on the Jordanian side. The main objectives of this seminar were to invite potential users of SESAME from the Middle East, give them an overview of the project, and introduce sciences and applications that can be done at the facility.

Sixty-four researchers from Middle East countries together with seven from East Asian countries (including two from Japan) participated in the seminar. Thirty lecturers were invited from various countries, including Japan, the US, Canada, and Europe as well as the Middle East.

At the opening ceremony and reception held on 19 October at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad, first cousin to the King, and Mr. Shintaro Sasaki, Japanese Ambassa-

dor Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Jordan, gave addresses. Representing JSPS, Prof. Kenichi Iga, executive director, delivered an address in which he said, "In support of the SESAME Project, JSPS gave special consideration to holding this seminar in Jordan. I am looking forward to its being a superb Asian Science Seminar in the field of synchrotron radiation science, and to its contributing to the success of UNESCO's SESAME Project."

From 19-20 October, the seminar was held at Al-Balqa' Applied University. As this seminar marked the first opportunity for many Japanese researchers in the field of accelerator and synchrotron radiation science to meet and talk with their colleagues in the Middle East, it proved to be an extremely beneficial encounter for both sides.



From left: Prof. Shinichi Kurokawa (KEK), HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad, Prof. Kenichi Iga (JSPS), Prof. Waheeb Alnaser (Univ. of Bahrain)

Second JSPS Science Forum Held in Stockholm

On 28 October, JSPS's liaison office in Stockholm held a Science Forum at the Nobel Forum of the Karolinska Institute (KI). This, the second in the series of Science Forums, was co-organized with KI on the theme "Life Science." Attracting an audience of over 100 researchers and others from Stockholm and the surrounding area,

the Forum's agenda of lectures evoked vigorous discussions among them on issues related to the theme.

At the opening, JSPS inspector general Dr. Keisuke Taira delivered some welcoming remarks, and KI's dean of research Prof. Jan Carlstedt-Duke commented on the

good development of exchange between Japanese and Swedish researchers in the domain of life science. Lectures were given by four researchers from each the Japanese and Swedish sides. Delving into new trends in related fields, the lectures invited an array of astute questions from the floor.

On the Japanese side, the four lecturers were Prof. Shigekazu Nagata, Osaka University; Prof. Shuh



Forum participants listening to lecture

Narumiya, Kyoto University; Prof. Yo-ichi Nabeshima, Kyoto University; and Prof. Makoto Asashima, The University of Tokyo. On the Swedish side, they were Prof. Sten Orrenius, Prof. Bertil Fredholm and Prof. Agneta Nordberg (all from KI), and Prof. Anders Björklund, Lund University. Ranging in scope from fundamental theory to clinical application, their presentations reported on important research advances across a wide spectrum of the life science domain. Finally, Prof. Yoshiro Shimura, director of the Stockholm liaison office, summed up the day's discourse.

Since the office's establishment last year, it held its first JSPS Science Forum in October 2001 and Science Colloquium for young scientists, titled "New Horizons of Developmental Biology," in May of this year. Through these events, steadfast progress has been made in promoting Japan-Swedish research exchange in life science, with this second Science Forum serving to widen that channel of communication and interactivity even further.

Workshop Sponsored on IT Research in Finland

On 31 October, JSPS, in cooperation with the Finnish Institute (FI), held a workshop in Tokyo on the theme "Latest Research of Information Technology in Finland." The convening of this workshop was proposed by FI, located within the Finnish Embassy in Tokyo, and endorsed by the Academy of Finland, which is JSPS's counterpart academic institution in Finland. A group of nine Finnish researchers engaged in leading IT research in Finland met together with their Japanese colleagues from Keio University, Yokohama National University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and other top-tier institutions in the subject field. They held a confab on the possibilities and prospects for expanded scientific collaboration between Japan and Finland, marking the first step toward establishing cooperative ties between centers of excellence in their respective countries.

At the workshop, introductory remarks were given by Mr. Koji Nakanishi, executive director, JSPS, and Dr. Katja Valaskivi, director, FI in Japan. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Iwao Sasase, Department of Information and Computer Science, Keio University. The following nine Finnish researchers gave presentations on leading-edge topics: Dr. Markku Sipilä, Mr. Leo Vaskelainen, Mr. Jan Holmberg, Mr. Juha Pärkkä, Dr. Mark van Gils (all from VTT-Technical Research Centre of Finland), Dr. Pertti Vainikainen, Dr. Risto Wichman (both from Helsinki Uni-

versity of Technology), Dr. Karen Egiazarian, and Dr. Sari Peltonen (both from Tampere University of Technology).

The workshop, attended by some 40 researchers from the two countries, boasted an active Q&A session after each presentation and a spirited free discussion. As a result, it not only served to enhance understanding of the state of research being conducted in the IT field, but is also deemed to have laid the initial groundwork for advancing IT-focused joint research and COE collaboration between the two nations.



Lecture delivered by Dr. Pertti Vainikainen

Nobel Prize Awarded to Former Director of JSPS's Washington Liaison Office

On 8 October, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that two Japanese scientists would be awarded this year's Nobel Prize: Masatoshi Koshihara in physics and Koichi Tanaka in chemistry.

Among them, Dr. Koshihara has had a close relationship with JSPS. After retiring as a professor at the University of Tokyo, he served as the director of JSPS's liaison office in Washington, DC for a 2-year period starting from April 1995. While in that position, Dr. Koshihara created the "Science in Japan Forum," delivered lectures at science institutions in the US to introduce research activities being advanced in Japan, and engaged in program deliberations with JSPS's counterpart organizations in the US. In these and numerous other ways, Dr. Koshihara contributed immensely to the furthering of vigorous scientific exchange between the United States and Japan.

The good relations Dr. Koshihara established in promoting scientific research exchange with the US still underpin the Washington office's operation, while the holding of



Dr. Masatoshi Koshihara

Science in Japan Forums and other PR activities continue to play an instrumental role in the office's effort to further US-Japan exchange.

Related Internet Websites:

Nobel Foundation:

<http://www.nobel.se/physics/laureates/2002/index.html>

JSPS Washington Office:

<http://www.jspususa.org>

New Inspector General Appointed

On 1 September, Dr. Keisuke Taira was newly appointed as JSPS's Inspector General. Before coming to JSPS, he was the director of the Ocean Research Institute at the University of Tokyo.

Events

London Office

Seminar "Diabetes; Ion Channels and Transporters"
Oxford University, 10 January 2003

Stockholm Office

Colloquium "Nanosciences/Nanotechnology"
Lund University (in February or March 2003)

London Office

Seminar "Nano-materials Symposium"
Oxford University, 24-25 March 2003

Bonn Office

Symposium "Science and Society"
Würzburg, 9-10 May 2003

Washington Office

Forum (theme undecided)
Cosmos Club, Washington DC, 6 June 2003

For details, contact the respective office.

Recruitments

- JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers
 - JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships (Short-term) for US Researchers
 - JSPS Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term)
- Application deadline to JSPS: 12-16 May 2003

For details, ask prospective host researcher or visit our website.

To Past and Present JSPS Fellows:

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you have changed your address or would like to add your name to the *JSPS Quarterly* mailing list, please mail your full name and address (including country) to JSPS Fellows Plaza, 6 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8471 or fax it to us at +81-3-3234-3700. Please indicate whether you are a current or former JSPS Fellow.

For further information on JSPS's organization and programs, please visit our website [www.jsp.go.jp/e-home.htm], or mail or fax inquiries to JSPS Fellows Plaza using the address or fax number given below. JSPS's brochure may also be downloaded [www.jsp.go.jp/e-admin/about.html].

● **JSPS Fellows Plaza**

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Tel. +81-3-3263-1872 Fax: +81-3-3234-3700 <http://www.jsp.go.jp/e-home.htm>

Information can also be obtained from our regional liaison offices listed below.

● **JSPS Washington Liaison Office**

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● **JSPS Liaison Office, Bonn**

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Bangkok 10110, THAILAND

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<http://www.inet.co.th/org/jps>

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<http://www.jpsnairobi.org>



**Crowing Rooster,
Emblem of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science**

From days of old in Japan, it has been the belief that the vigorous cry of the rooster in the gray of the morning augurs the coming of a new and bright day. As the crowing rooster can therefore be thought of as a harbinger of the kind of new knowledge that promises a brilliant future for humankind, it was chosen as the emblem of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. This emblem was designed in 1938 by Professor Sanzo Wada of Tokyo Fine Arts School to depict the rooster that symbolizes the breaking dawn in a verse composed by Emperor Showa.