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JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Quarterly



TOPICS

● Message from New Director General	2
● Departing Message by Tei-ichi Sato	2
● International Prize for Biology	3
● JSPS as Independent Administrative Institution	3
● External Review Report	4
● FY2003 Budget	6
● Asian Science Seminar	8
● JAFoS Symposium	8
● Strasbourg: First JSPS Forum	9
● London: Joint Symposium with Oxford	10
● Short-term Fellowship for North American and European Researchers	10
● Summer Research Program	11
● 21 st Century COE Program	11



Message by Motoyuki Ono, New Director General

I have succeeded Mr. Tei-ichi Sato in the post of director general of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Building on the achievements made by Mr. Sato and JSPS's other officers as well as on

the public trust they have earned, I will do all in my power to continue to advance scientific development in Japan while working to enhance JSPS's programs. In this effort, I request the guidance and encouragement of all our colleagues and affiliates.

We have crossed the threshold into the 21st century. With the advent of a "knowledge society" spurred by the rapid advances in science and technology and underpinned by new genres of knowledge, this century promises to be called the "knowledge century." It is certain to be a century that sees increased demand for both the generation and integration of knowledge. Scientific research carried out in pursuit of truth will play an instrumental role in such knowledge creation and restructuring.

In Japan, this is particularly the case with research to be conducted under the government's 2nd S&T Basic Plan, which mandates the building of a nation undergirded by scientific and technological creativity of the world's highest standard. Accomplishing this objective will urgently require a forging ahead with scientific research that is both richly creative and highly diverse.

To meet such expectations, JSPS, as Japan's core science-promotion organization, carries out a vigorous program of activities—one that has been expanding in scale year upon year. These include performing the project selection and grant distribution functions of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program, fostering researchers through the granting of the Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program, and conducting other programs to promote international cooperation and exchange. To these was added this fiscal year the project selection function under the 21st Century COE Program. These programs were assessed in an external review conducted in June of last year, in which a panel of leading authorities from overseas science-promotion agencies highly appraised their performance.

Based on its record of past achievement, JSPS will be converted into an "independent administrative institution" in October of this year. This transition will bring with it ever higher expectation in JSPS to operate its programs in a more flexible, effective and transparent manner, while demonstrating a high quality of leadership in the promotion of scientific research within Japan.

Having assumed the post of JSPS's director general in such a period of pivotal transition, I am committed to

working to meet the broad spectrum of researchers' needs and public expectations in advancing scientific research, while reforming and enhancing JSPS's programs and operations in such a way as to elevate the intellectual presence of Japan within the international community.

To these ends, I reiterate my request for your sustained support and cooperation.



Departing Message by Tei-ichi Sato

My tenure as JSPS's director general ended on 31 December 2002. Having assumed the post on 1 July 2000, it was for the relatively short period of two-and-a-half years that I was privileged to serve in this capacity. During that time, I availed myself extensively of your generous support and cooperation, and now take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation to each of you.

This 2.5-year period witnessed an elevating need to promote scientific research, accompanied by significant steps forward in the development of JSPS's array of program offerings. While serving as JSPS's director general during this intensive phase of its program development, I have enjoyed guidance and encouragement most amiably accorded by a circle of scholars and administrators whom I have long admired for their profound erudition and expertise. To you most especially, I express my deepest gratitude.

I am certain that the importance placed on scientific advancement within Japan's national policy will continue to rise in the years ahead. In responding to such growing expectation, it will be vital for JSPS to continue to make program innovations based on a comprehensive, long-term perspective. From October, JSPS will, as an "independent administrative institution," embark afresh upon a new and challenging path, one that will give it the opportunity to become both in name and practice Japan's premier science promotion agency. In this endeavor, I shall from my special place in the bleachers continue to cheer and support the efforts of JSPS's officers and staffs.

Once again, I express my heartiest thanks to all for your kindness, support and inspiration during my term in office.

Presentation Ceremony Held for 2002 International Prize for Biology

On 2 December, the 18th annual ceremony for awarding the International Prize for Biology was held in the presence of Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, at the Japan Academy, located in Ueno Park, Tokyo. The ceremony was organized by the Committee on the International Prize for Biology, chaired by Dr. Saburo Nagakura, president of the Japan Academy.

At the ceremony, an opening message was delivered by Dr. Nagakura and a report on the selection process was provided by Dr. Kunio Iwatsuki, chair of this year's Selection Committee, after which the prize and an Imperial gift were presented to this year's awardee, Dr. Masatoshi Nei, professor, Pennsylvania State University. A message was then delivered by His Majesty, followed by congratulatory remarks from the Prime Minister (read by Mr. Teijiro Furukawa, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and from Ms. Atsuko Toyama, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The ceremony concluded with an acceptance address from Dr. Nei.



Award ceremony of International Prize for Biology in presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress

At the reception following the ceremony, a congenial atmosphere prevailed with Their Majesties and Dr. Nei engaging in amicable conversation with each other and with the attending embassy representatives, Prize Committee members, and other distinguished guests.

JSPS to Become an Independent Administrative Institution

From 1997, the Japanese government has been engaged in a process of administrative reforms aimed at effectively responding to the rapidly changing state of the socio-economic environment both in and outside Japan. These reforms include, among other things, a reorganization of government ministries and agencies to further administrative streamlining and transparency and the establishment of "independent administrative institutions."

As part of this reform process, on 19 December 2001 a plan was issued by the Cabinet for rationalizing and consolidating the country's quasi (or special status) governmental organizations, of which JSPS is one. Some 118 such organizations were targeted for either abolishment, privatization or conversion to independent administrative institutions (IAIs) under this initiative. Through the winnowing process, JSPS was placed in the IAI category.

At a special session of the Diet in the fall of 2002, a bill was passed establishing JSPS as an independent administrative institution, based on which JSPS will switch to

the new organizational format in October of this year.

What most characterizes an independent administrative institution is a minimum of involvement in its operation by the competent ministry or agency, reinforced by an elevated degree of autonomy and independence to act as a legal entity. At the same time, IAIs are required to carry out appropriate performance evaluations to ensure that their activities are being implemented in an efficient and effective manner, while assuming clear responsibility for their outcomes.

Thorough consideration was given to the envisioned role for JSPS as an independent administrative institution in its December 2002 external review report, which offered an array of recommendations on how to renovate JSPS's organization and operation in such a way as to elevate its independence and autonomy as an IAI. (For reference, please see article on page 4.) Based on these recommendations, JSPS will work to enhance the quality of its operation and programs.

External Review Report

In its 70th year of operation and on the threshold of being converted into an independent administrative institution, JSPS requested its Advisory Council to conduct an external review, or reexamination, of the state of its operations and programs. In response, the Council established a 7-member External Review Committee to conduct the assessment in February 2002. The review process that culminated in the Committee's issuing of the External Review Report evolved in the following sequence.

In March 2002, the JSPS secretariat sent out review materials to the Review Committee members, who took about a month to review them and to prepare and submit their comments and questions. Adding supplemental materials where appropriate, the secretariat used the members' responses to compile discussion points and other materials to facilitate deliberations in a meeting of all the committee members to be held in Tokyo on 17-19 June 2002. With Prof. Akito Arima elected as the Chair and Prof. Neal Lane as the Acting Chair of the meeting, the committee carried out its review based on the materials that had been prepared. On the final day of the meet-

ing, the members compiled their review findings and recommendations.

In the days following the meeting, the Chair and his staff compiled a draft of the External Review Report based on the Committee's discussion results and sent it to the members for their perusal and comments. Upon receiving their unanimous consent, the Report was finalized and submitted to the Advisory Council in December 2002. After deliberating and endorsing the Report's findings and recommendations, the Council presented it to the president of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The Report not only provides the Review Committee's evaluation of JSPS's overall program and its recommendations for future enhancements, but offers broad pointers on the state and direction of science-promotion policy. Applying the content of the External Review Report to the refinement of its programs, JSPS will endeavor to further advance scientific research in Japan.

The full text of the External Review Report may be found on JSPS's homepage [www.jsps.go.jp/e-admin/about.html].

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

Contents of Report

The Report covers in order listed the following topics:

1. JSPS's Basic Stance on Science Promotion
2. JSPS's Relation to Government Policy on Science Promotion
3. Overview of JSPS and Its Program
4. Research Grants
5. Fostering Researchers
6. JSPS's International Exchange Programs
7. Envisioned Role for JSPS in Future
8. Expectations in JSPS

Basic Recommendations

As JSPS's basic posture, it should continue to place the highest priority on supporting the best researchers and best ideas, and carry out its programs with a high degree of flexibility to function as a prime mover for the organization of science operating independently of the government.

To facilitate this independence, JSPS should put in place a new governance based on a Director operating in conjunction with a Board composed of active scientists and

technologists. The composition of the Board should reflect the shared interests of JSPS with a majority of representatives nominated from the academic community together with nominations from government and industry.

Recommendation 1

JSPS has a pivotal responsibility in supporting scientific research in Japan. Scientific research should be carried out in a competitive environment as defined through project evaluation by researchers themselves. In supporting such research, JSPS should, to the highest degree possible, allow researchers freedom, with which will come increased responsibility.

Recommendation 2

JSPS should further enhance its existing programs by elevating the autonomy and independence of its operations through the strengthening of its planning and policy decision functions. This it should do by seeking the opinions of the academic community in carrying out these functions.

Recommendation 3

Given the magnitude of its role, JSPS is understaffed. Along with significantly increasing its staffing level, JSPS should hire people with research experience so as to strengthen its program selection and evaluation functions and its planning capacity.

Recommendation 4

In carrying out its research-grant programs, JSPS should employ a peer review process to focus on research based on the best ideas. At the same time, it should have a system in place that facilitates the selection of research proposals based on bold, innovative ideas.

It will, furthermore, be necessary for JSPS to consider a number of operational enhancements. These include developing a system for attracting talented young people to research careers, requiring applications to be written in English, introducing an electronic application system, publicly disclosing information on grant selection results, allowing rebuttal and resubmission by grant applicants, providing more flexible use of research funds, and broadening support for work in the humanities and social sciences, including crosscutting work involving collaboration with researchers in the natural sciences and engineering.

The reversion of part of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program back to MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) is not deemed appropriate.

JSPS should give consideration to improve various aspects of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program. These include the participation of staff with research experience in the grant selection and project evaluation processes, a revising of the screening categories, and the establishment of multiple grant application periods during the year.

Recommendation 5

JSPS should work to enhance its programs for fostering researchers. It should expand its Research Fellowships for Young Scientists program, work to further increase the mobility of young researchers, strengthen its activities to foster young elites, provide for gender equality, and establish clearly defined career paths. It should provide "reintegration" support to young researchers returning from overseas under the Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and other programs so as to assist them in securing an independent footing as researchers in Japan. Under its Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers, JSPS should provide living-related support for fellows and their family members while in Japan.

Recommendation 6

Given the importance of its international exchange activities, JSPS should undertake their overall enhancement. Concurrently, it should increase the number of grants made under the JSPS Award for Eminent Scientists, expand the scale of its exchanges in regions of the world with a weak record of scientific cooperation, enhance the functions of its overseas liaison offices, and promote the organization of alumni groups of former JSPS fellows.

Recommendation 7

As an independent administrative institution, JSPS should maintain a high level of autonomy and independence, and, to that end, should establish a board that reflects the opinions of active researchers.

New Director at London Office

On 1 January 2003, Mr. Yasuhisa Kanaguchi, former director of Lifelong Learning Division, MEXT, became the director of JSPS's London Office, succeeding Mr. Kunio Sato in that position.

Outline of FY2003 Budget

The Cabinet drafted the government's budget for fiscal year 2003 and submitted it to the Diet on 24 January 2003. It will be enacted in the regular session of the Diet currently underway. The following is an outline of JSPS's FY2003 budget allocation, which can be divided into seven major categories.

(1) JSPS's operation and programs	¥29.7 billion [\$248 million]
(2) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	¥86.6 billion [\$722 million]
(3) 21 st Century COE Program	¥200 million [\$1.7 million]
(4) Donations and other revenues	¥500 million [\$4.2 million]

Of the above ¥117.0 billion [\$975 million] budget, 99.5% comes directly from government in the form of subsidies.

The budget for (1) JSPS's operation and programs can, in turn, be broken down into following program sub-categories:

① Postdoctoral fellowships for young researchers	¥23.1 billion [\$193 million]
② International scientific cooperation programs	¥4.2 billion [\$35 million]
③ Research Center for Science System	¥400 million [\$3.3 million]
④ New Research Initiatives in Humanities and Social Sciences	¥200 million [\$1.7 million]
⑤ Scientific information exchange	¥200 million [\$1.7 million]
⑥ JSPS administration and management	¥1.6 billion [\$13.3 million]

As elaborated below, three new programs are being implemented this year.

•Research Center for Science System

This Center, to be staffed predominately by researchers, will be established within JSPS based on a recognition of the need to employ people with research experience and expertise who can participate in JSPS's program operations. While conducting analyses and evaluations of JSPS's overall program, the Center will also carry out studies and research on science promotion policy and scientific research trends.

•New Research Initiatives in Humanities and Social Sciences (tentative)

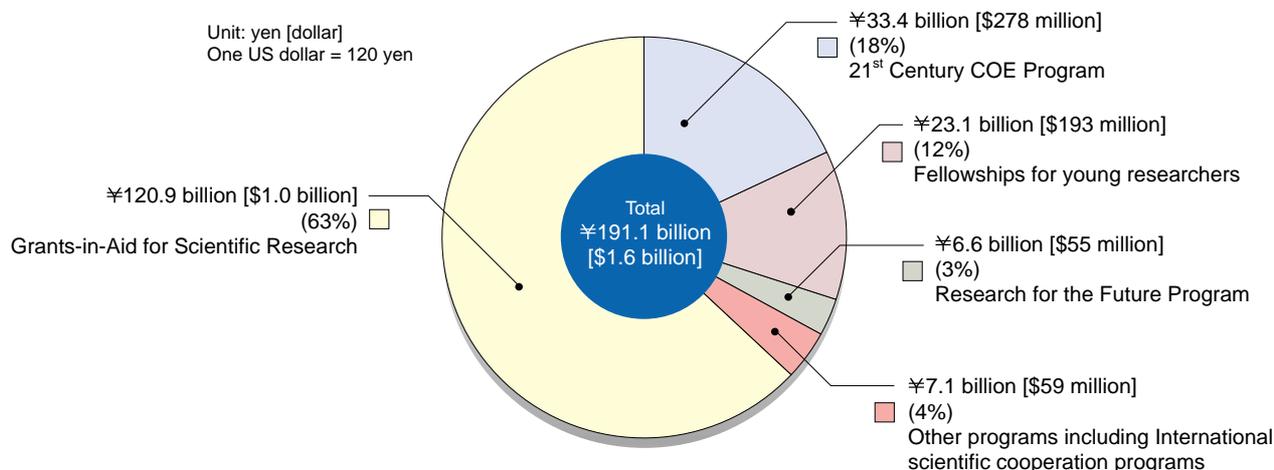
In overcoming many of the current problems facing the global community, including Japan, there is a demand for the humanities and social sciences to play both the role of a critic and of a cultural facilitator. Accordingly, high expectation is being placed on these fields to generate new and viable configurations of knowledge. An innovative framework is needed for advancing such academic research—one that embodies collaboration across a wide range of fields including those of basic research. To that end, JSPS has launched this program to support project research that explores and defines new research issues and domains in the humanities and social sciences.

•Expansion of International Scientific Cooperation Programs

This is a new component added to JSPS's researcher support and international scientific cooperation programs. Across a wide spectrum of leading research fields, large-scale, multinational research collaborations are being rapidly formed and advanced. In sync with this trend, JSPS is adding a multilateral dimension to many of its bilateral exchange programs, while launching new initiatives to form multinational research networks. At the same time, JSPS is also initiating new follow-up activities aimed at former JSPS postdoctoral fellows—ones that support, by promoting exchange between them and Japanese researchers, the fostering of vibrant researcher communities.

In addition, JSPS plays a central function in the implementation of the following three programs (5-7), funds for which are provided in MEXT's budget.

JSPS FY2003 Funding by Program



(5) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

¥34.3 billion [\$286 million]

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research are divided into a number of grant categories based on the object and content of the research funded. For the part of the program funded under category (2) above, JSPS performs all functions from project recruitment and selection to grant distribution. For this part of the program, a budget is established within MEXT, which distributes the grants. JSPS carries out the recruitment and selection functions. As shown in the graph, JSPS's aggregate funding (direct funding and MEXT funding) for this program totals ¥120.9 billion [\$1.0 billion].

(6) 21st Century COE Program

¥33.2 billion [\$277 million]

JSPS performs all of the functions, including selection and evaluation, for this program as well. The only exception is grant distribution, which is conducted by MEXT. (See related article on page 11.)

(7) Research for the Future Program

¥6.6 billion [\$55 million]

A budget of ¥6.6 billion [\$55 million] is established for this program within MEXT, which makes the grant distributions.

In the above manner, JSPS's FY2003 funding is divided into two components: (1) direct government subsidies and (2) funds provided in MEXT's budget to carry out specific program functions. Together, they give JSPS a total FY2003 budget of ¥191.1 billion [\$1.6 billion], which is 10% higher than its previous year's budget of ¥173.8 billion [\$1.4 billion].

Events

Stockholm Office

Colloquium "Nanotechnology"
Grand Hotel, Lund, 17 March 2003

London Office

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

Bonn Office

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

Stockholm Office

Colloquium "Frontiers of Photonics"
Stockholm, 2-3 June 2003

Washington Office

Forum (Theme Undecided)
Cosmos Club, Washington DC, 6 June 2003

London Office

Symposium "Beyond Globalization in Japan and Asia:
A Multilevel Approach"
Sheffield University, 26-27 July 2003

Strasbourg Office

Forum "Postgenome"
Centre Culturel St-Thomas, Strasbourg, 28 November 2003

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.

Publications

Doppler-Free High Resolution Spectral Atlas of Iodine Molecule 15000 to 19000 cm⁻¹

By Hajime Katô et al., Kobe University; four volumes (4,000 pages with CD-ROM); ¥60,000 [about \$500] plus delivery. For details and ordering, see: www.jsps.go.jp/e-rftf/gaiyo/gaiyo_pub_i.html

Life in Japan for Foreign Researchers 2002

Revised handbook contains useful information on living, working, housing, banking, medical services, etc; 230 pages in English & Japanese; 1,680 ¥ [about \$14] plus delivery. For details, ask Maruzen bookstore: fax +81-3-3272-0693 or email e-shop@maruzen.co.jp

Asian Science Seminar Held at Kyushu University

In an effort to lay the foundations for building a common legal framework among countries of the Asian region, JSPS and the Faculty of Law at Kyushu University convened from 25 November through 5 December 2002 an Asian Science Seminar on the theme "Law and Open Society in Asia." Asian Science Seminars are one of JSPS's mainstay programs for fostering young researchers in the region.

This seminar, held on the university's campus in Fukuoka, was aimed at advancing comparative research on the intrinsic legal infrastructures of Asian countries amidst a climate of proliferating globalization. It did this with an eye to forging a common conceptual framework among them.

The seminar was attended by 10 young researchers from Japan and another 16 from nine Asian countries includ-

ing China and Korea. Lectures were delivered by 24 leading researchers in the field, hailing from Japan, Australia and a number of Asian countries. The opening ceremony featured messages of greeting and encouragement by Dr. Tisato Kajiyama, president of Kyushu University, and by Mr. Koji Nakanishi, executive director of JSPS. From the lectures that followed, a spirited exchange of views ensued—one that transcended national barriers and sparked a level of enthusiasm conducive to taking the first steps toward forming a common understanding and legal concept among the countries of the region.

The seminar also gave the young researchers an opportunity to confabulate with legal experts and practitioners in the Kyushu area, which along with the platform it provided them to take part in presentations and case studies, made this event rich in both content and practice.

Fifth JAFoS Symposium 2002 Held in the US

On 6-8 December 2002, JSPS and the US National Academy of Science cosponsored the fifth Symposium on Japanese-American Frontiers of Science (JAFoS), which was held at Bechman Conference Center in Irvine, California. The symposium offered the vibrant group young researchers (all under 45) it assembled an excellent opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions and to widen their international as well as their interdisciplinary perspectives. Selected participants gave presentations on state-of-the-art topics and all engaged in follow-on discussions. In addition, poster sessions were held and informal discussions pursued.

This JAFoS 2002 saw approximately 60 participants, with about half from each country. It featured sessions on the following eight topics: Atmospheric Moist Convection, Earthquakes, Evolution of Social Order, Genetic Networks, Learning and Memory, Molecular Catalysis, Regenerative Medicine, and Slow Dynamics in Complex Systems. As a special feature of this Symposium, a sociological topic (Evolution of Social Order) was introduced for the first time so as to spur an exchange of views across a wide spectrum of fields. In not only the natural



Session chairperson and presenter fielding questions from the floor

science but also the social science sessions, participants asked volleys of questions, stirring spirited discussions. Thanks to their enthusiasm, the symposium scored a great success.

The next JAFoS symposium is slated to be held in December 2003 at Shonan Village Center in Japan.

Strasbourg Liaison Office Holds First JSPS Forum

On 29 November, the first JSPS Forum was held at Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France. It was organized by JSPS's liaison office (director: Prof. Yoichi Nakatani; deputy director: Ms. Yuriko Seki) and convened with the cooperation and support of the university; CNRS; Société Française de Chimie, Section d'Alsace; Maison Universitaire France-Japon; the City of Strasbourg; and Consulate General of Japan, Strasbourg. Over 450 university researchers from, needless to say, France but also from Germany and Switzerland participated in the Forum. Packed to standing capacity, the spacious conference room in the university's Chemistry Research Institute appeared dwarfed. As the French might quip: "Pour la première fois, j'ai vu le grand amphithéâtre être petit." With such expressions of surprise and delight, the Forum got off to an animated start.

At the opening ceremony, welcome messages were given by Prof. Bernard Carriere, President, Université Louis Pasteur; Mr. Hidekazu Yamaguchi, Consulate General of Japan, Strasbourg; Prof. Maurice Gross, Advisor, Ministère de la Recherche; and Mrs. Fabienne Keller, Mayor, Ville de Strasbourg. Following their remarks, which applauded JSPS for its initiative in promoting science and, in that pursuit, opening a liaison office in France, Mr. Tei-ichi Sato, Director General, JSPS, delivered some reciprocal words of greeting. All expressed high expectations in the Forum being an excellent platform for developing even further the longstanding scientific exchange between France and Japan.

The morning session of the Forum featured presentations by Dr. Ryoji Noyori, Professor, Nagoya University and 2001 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry; Dr. Jean-Yves Lallemand, Director, Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles; and Dr. Hiizu Iwamura, Professor, University of the Air. Dr. Noyori spoke on the subject "Asymmetric Hydrogenation," explaining why substrate/metal complexation is not always necessary in obtaining hydrogenative saturation, while Dr. Lallemand posed an answer to the question "Is It Possible to Cure Genetic Diseases by Chemical Drugs?," using cystic fibrosis as a model. Then, Dr. Iwamura explored the question "How to Ask Supra-



Participants of forum in Strasbourg

molecules to Function?," using the case of free radical based magnets.

The afternoon session was privileged to hear presentations from Dr. Daniel Mansuy, Professor, Université René Descartes; Dr. Toyoki Kunitake, Professor, Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN); and Dr. Jean-Marie Lehn, Professor, Université Louis Pasteur and 1987 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. Dr. Mansuy spoke on "Catalysis and Biodiversity," drawing on the example of heme-thiolate proteins and their chemical models. Then, Dr. Kunitake told how "A Novel Chemistry is Born from Metal Oxide Networks," subtitled his address "A Chemistry of Copying." Finally, Dr. Lehn addressed the theme "Steps toward Complex Matter: Self-Organization by Design and by Selection."

Before each of their presentation, an introduction was given of the speakers by one of the following eminent chemists: Prof. Guy Ourisson, Prof. Jean-Paul Behn, Prof. Daniel Guillon, Prof. Kazuhiko Saigo, Prof. Jacques Prost, and Prof. Helmut Ringdorf. Zooming in on the speakers' accomplishments, they evoked hardy applause from the audience, while using a good mix of humor in their introductions sparked bursts of laughter and an air of joviality.

The Forum's lectures can be viewed at www.Canal-U.education.fr

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.

Joint Symposium with University of Oxford

On 10 January 2003, the JSPS London Liaison Office in co-sponsorship with The University of Oxford convened a large-scale symposium entitled, "Ion Channels, Transporters and Cell Excitability." The event took place at the Department of Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, The University of Oxford, with the two co-hosts being Prof. Susumu Seino, Graduate School of Medicine, Chiba University, and Prof. Frances Ashcroft, University Laboratory of Physiology, The University of Oxford. Eight top-ranking scientists from UK and Japanese institutions presented their latest research, evoking sophisticated discussions regarding their cutting-edge work.

Prof. Ashcroft and Sir Denis Noble (both of The University of Oxford) chaired the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively.

Delivering presentations on the Japanese side were Prof. Seino; Prof. Yoshinori Fujiyoshi, Kyoto University; Prof. Yoshihisa Kurachi, Osaka University; and Prof. Tomoyuki Takahashi, University of Tokyo. On the UK side, they were Prof. Ashcroft; Prof. David Attwell and Prof. Annette Dolphin, both of University College London; and Prof. Nigel Unwin, University of Cambridge.

This cadre of specialists in such fields as electrophysiology, molecular biology and structural chemistry, assembled by the symposium under one roof, attracted a large audience of some one hundred participants.

Special mention should also be given to the wide diversity of fields—including myocardium, neuron, and pancreatic β cell research—in which the specialists introduced research topics and recent research achievements related to ion channels and transporters. This went a long way toward elucidating avenues for advancing related research in the future.

The participants found the event to be beneficial and also inspiring with regard to their future work. For example, those conducting structural analysis on the molecular level were able to see the possibility of expanding their work to the cell and individual levels, while those specializing in cellular physiology could vividly sense a need for more information on structural chemistry at the molecular level. All in all, the participating researchers realized that advancing their work to new dimensions will require cross-border cooperation among colleagues of diverse fields.

Travel bursaries provided by UK-based The Wellcome Trust and Tokyo-based The British Council enabled young Japanese researchers to take part in this event. Thanks to these organizations, this symposium proved to be particularly significant as it provided an opportunity for young researchers from Japan and the UK to meet and exchange views, thus paving the way to future Anglo-Japan research collaboration.

JSPS Postdoctoral Program (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers

This program modifies the heretofore-titled "JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (short-term) for US Researchers" by changing some of its implementation details and opening it to candidates from Canada and Europe. Its purpose is to provide opportunities to young pre- and post-doctoral researchers from the US, Canada and Europe to conduct, under the guidance of their hosts, cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions. In so doing, the program is designed to help advance the research of the visiting fellows, while augmenting opportunities for young researchers from North America and Europe to come to Japan, thus expanding scientific exchange between Japan and the following participating countries: The US,

Canada, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

The new program also covers all fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Eligibility under it is expanded from the former requirement of holding a doctorate at the time the fellowship goes into effect, which must have been received within 10 years, to include being enrolled in an overseas graduate program under the condition that a Ph.D. will be received within two years.

from 30 November to 31 March of the following year, and the length of tenure has been widened from 3-12 months to 15 days to 12 months.

Application deadlines, which were set at twice a fiscal year under the previous program, are increased to six times (with three times in interim FY 2003). Each fiscal

JSPS Summer Program

Two summer research programs that had until last year been carried out under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)—one titled “MEXT Research Experience Fellowships for Young Foreign Researchers” and the other “MEXT/NSF Summer Program”—have been transferred to JSPS and combined into one program entitled “JSPS Summer Program.” The new JSPS Summer Program is incorporated within the framework of JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers.

Young pre- and post-doctoral researchers from overseas are invited to Japan for a 2-month stay (from late June through late August) to participate in the program, which comprises an initial orientation session in which elements of Japan’s culture, language and research environment are introduced, followed by an opportunity to conduct research under the guidance of a host researcher. Upon the fellows’ arrival in Japan, the orientation is conducted at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies,

year, approximately 60 candidates will be accepted through domestic applications by host researchers. Another 80 will be accepted via overseas nominations (i.e., 40 from the US and 10 each from European countries with a JSPS overseas liaison office—namely, France, Germany, Sweden, and the UK). —

followed by a period of joint research at a host institution, which range from universities to national laboratories throughout Japan. The summer program wraps up with a research report session in Tokyo.

JSPS’s overseas partners in implementing this program are NSF (USA), British Council (UK), CNRS (France), DAAD (Germany) (all of which have liaison offices in Japan) and the Canadian Embassy. These organizations recruit and select from their respective countries the participants, who must be either enrolled in an overseas doctoral program or have received their PhDs within six years. For this FY2003 Summer Program, plans are to admit 65 participants from the US, 10 each from the UK, France and Germany, and eight from Canada.

Provisions for the participants include a roundtrip air ticket, a ¥570,000 living allowance, and an additional lodging subsidy of ¥54,000 if the participant uses a hotel or other public accommodations.

FY2003 Project Recruitment Begins under 21st Century COE Program

Last year, the government launched the 21st Century COE Program for the purpose of establishing discipline-specific centers of education and research at the world’s apex of excellence within graduate schools and departments of Japanese universities. With an eye to raising the standard of university research in Japan and to fostering young people with rich creativity who will be capable of assuming leading roles in the world, the government is placing priority on the funding of this program.

In this second recruitment under the program, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has on 29 January issued a call to universities throughout Japan for FY2003 project proposals. The submission period is set for 5-7 March 2003. The 21st Century COE Program Committee, established within JSPS, will review the proposals and announce its selection re-

sults in the beginning of July.

The program targets ten categories of education and research, of which the following five fall under the FY2003 recruitment: medical sciences; mathematics, physics, earth sciences; mechanical, civil, architectural and other fields of engineering; social sciences; and interdisciplinary, combined fields, new disciplines. The FY2002 recruitment covered the other five categories of life sciences; chemistry, material sciences; information sciences, electrical and electronic engineering; humanities; and interdisciplinary, combined fields, new disciplines.

For updated information on the 21st Century COE Program, please visit our Japanese website: www.jsps.go.jp/j-21coe/index.html

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 Quarterly and our brochure may also be downloaded [www.jsp.go.jp/e-admin/about.html].

● **JSPS Fellows Plaza**

6 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8471

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**

Suite 920, 1800 K Street N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

Tel: +1-202-659-8190 Fax: +1-202-659-8199

E-mail: webmaster@jpsusa.org

<http://www.jpsusa.org>

● **JSPS Liaison Office, Bonn**

Wissenschaftszentrum, Ahrstr. 58, 53175,

Bonn, GERMANY

Tel: +49-228-375050 Fax: +49-228-957777

E-mail: jps-bonn@t-online.de

<http://www.jps-bonn.de>

● **JSPS Liaison Office, London**

12 Berkeley Street, London W1J 8DT, UK

Tel: +44-20-7629-3577 Fax: +44-20-7629-3588

E-mail: enquire@jps.org

<http://www.jps.org>

● **JSPS Liaison Office, Stockholm**

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● **JSPS Liaison Office, Strasbourg**

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67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE

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<http://jps.u-strasbg.fr>

● **JSPS Liaison Office, Bangkok**

113 TWY Office Center, 10th Fl., Serm-mit Tower,

159 Sukhumvit Soi 21,

Bangkok 10110, THAILAND

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

● **JSPS Research Station, Cairo**

9 Al-Kamel Muhammad Street,

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Cairo, EGYPT

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● **JSPS Research Station, Nairobi**

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Nairobi, KENYA

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E-mail: jps1@africaonline.co.ke

<http://www.jspsnairobi.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.