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TOPICS

- “Research Center for Science System” to be Established 2
- Projects Selected under 21st Century COE Program 3
- SAKURA Program 3
- Presidents of Japanese and Chinese Universities Meet 4
- Meeting of Thai RONPAKU Fellows 5
- Reception for New Director of London Office 6
- Colloquium on Nanotechnology Held in Sweden 6
- Nano-Materials Seminar Held in Oxford 8
- 8th Japan-Germany Science Symposium 8
- Recent Visitors to JSPS (January-March 2003) 10
- Alumni Follow-Up Activities Launched 11

New “Research Center for Science System” to be Established

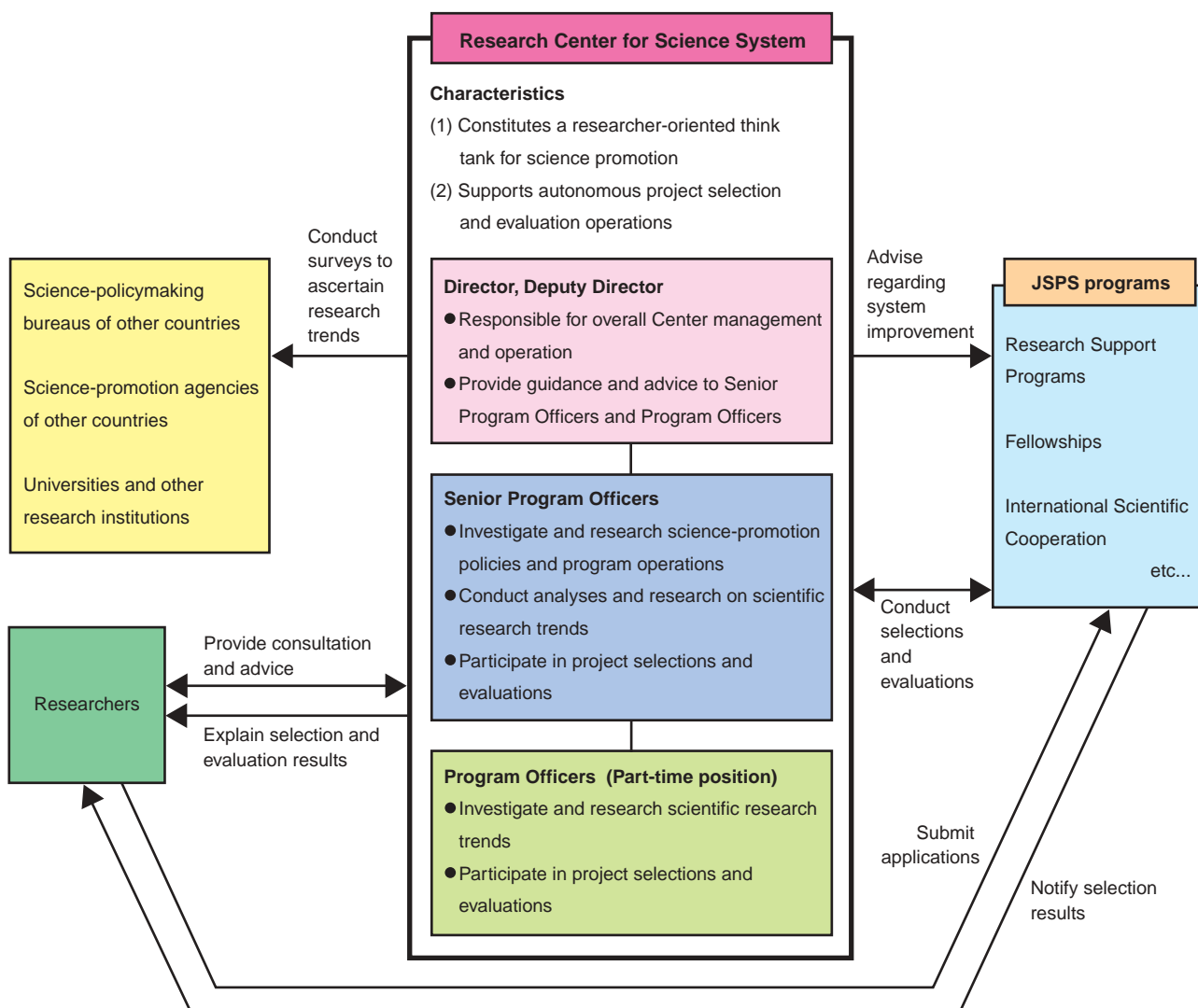
JSPS supports researchers while carrying out an array of research grants, fellowships, and international exchange programs with an aim at contributing to the advancement of science in Japan. To further enhance the effectiveness of these programs and their operations, a new “Research Center for Science System,” staffed by people with research experience and expertise, will be established within JSPS from July of this year.

The Center will have assigned to it researchers in eight disciplinary groups, constituting 40 fields. They will par-

ticipate in the selection and evaluation processes of JSPS’s Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program, Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program, and international exchange programs, among others. While conducting surveys and studies on scientific trends and promotion policies, these researchers will also offer recommendations and advice to JSPS regarding overall program operations.

The position of the Center within JSPS’s organization and its functions are diagrammed below.

JSPS’s Research Center for Science System



Project Selection under the 21st Century COE Program

On 29 January 2003, a call for FY2003 proposals under the 21st Century COE Program was sent out to the heads of each national, public and private university (with the exception of junior colleges). Proposals were received during the application period of 5-7 March.

To process COE proposals and make selections, the 21st Century COE Program Committee, comprising leading experts and authorities, has been established within JSPS. The Committee was convened to preside over the

approximately 4-month-long selection process, the schedule for which is as follows:

From early April through late June:

From the submitted proposals, select candidate COE projects through a process of document and panel reviews and hearings.

In July: From the candidate COE projects, select this year's grantees.

FY2003 Applications in Each Category by University Types

Categories Universities	Medical sciences	Mathematics, physics, earth sciences	Mechanical, civil, architectural and other fields of engineering	Social sciences	Interdisciplinary, combined fields, new disciplines	Total
National	86 (41)	56 (33)	62 (42)	38 (19)	95 (59)	337 (81)
Public	14 (13)	6 (4)	8 (7)	12 (7)	15 (14)	55 (29)
Private	38 (31)	24 (18)	36 (29)	55 (36)	66 (54)	219 (115)
Total	138 (85)	86 (55)	106 (78)	105 (62)	176 (127)	611 (225)

Note: Figures in parentheses are the number of universities.

SAKURA Program Launched

Based on a memorandum of understanding signed last year with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministère des Affaires Etrangères), the Japan-France Integrated Action Program, named the "SAKURA Program," was implemented this fiscal year. Open calls for joint research and seminar proposals have already begun. The period for joint research projects is two years and for seminars is up to one week.

The program covers all fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Its aim is to allow young researchers of the two countries to form interpersonal networks while fostering ability in them to implement new international research projects and organize international conferences. This is done by providing them

with opportunities to collaborate in conceptualizing and carrying out joint research activities and seminars.

JSPS supports the costs of the Japanese participants in such activities, while the Ministry covers the costs of the participants on the French side. Specifically, JSPS provides approximately one million yen per year for each joint research project of up to a 2-year period. For each seminar, JSPS furnishes support in an amount up to two million yen.

The most distinguishing feature of this program is that it is designed to foster international perspectives in the young participants, while encouraging highly innovative research content and interdisciplinary approaches.

Presidents of Japanese and Chinese Universities Meet in Tokyo

In the wake of the 30th anniversary of the normalization of relations between Japan and China, The University of Tokyo organized a seminar, jointly sponsored by JSPS, entitled "Presidents' Seminar on Academic Exchanges between Japanese and Chinese Universities." It was held on 12-13 February at the Hotel New Otani. The first day of the seminar saw presentations and discussions on such themes as "Science Policy Development in Japan and China and Attendant Issues," and "Elevating the Standard of University Research." The second day addressed through a free-discussion format the topic "Towards Mutual Cooperation among Japanese and Chinese Universities."

It was found that the issue of raising the quality of university education and research is common to both Japan and China, as is the need to improve university operations with an aim to achieving that objective. The seminar provided an ideal opportunity for top administrators from both countries to report on their respective approaches to these issues, exchange views, and learn from each other's experiences and good practices.

Seventeen people took part in the seminar on the Japanese side, including Mr. Tomonori Kudo, deputy minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Mr. Motoyuki Ono, director gen-

eral of JSPS; Prof. Mutsuo Nakamura, president of Hokkaido University; Prof. Takashi Yoshimoto, president of Tohoku University; Prof. Takeshi Sasaki, president of The University of Tokyo; Prof. Minoru Matsuo, president of Nagoya University; Prof. Makoto Nagao, president of Kyoto University; Prof. Tadamitsu Kishimoto, president of Osaka University; Prof. Tisato Kajiyama, president of Kyushu University; Prof. Yuichiro Anzai, president of Keio University; and Prof. Katsuhiko Shirai, president of Waseda University. There were nine participants on the Chinese side, including Prof. Zhou Ji, vice minister, Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China; Mr.



Prof. Takeshi Sasaki, President of The University of Tokyo





Prof. Zhou Ji, Vice Minister of Education

Li Dong Xiang, minister-counselor (education), Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Prof. Min Wei-Fang, vice president of Peking University; Prof. Wang Da-Zhong, president of Tsinghua University; Prof. Wang Sheng-Hong, president of Fudan University; Prof. Jiang Shu-Sheng, president of Nanjing University; and Prof. Zhu Qing-Shi, president of the University of Science and Technology of China.

In addition to exchanging views on the prevailing issues, these leaders also advanced a concrete dialogue on a policy for promoting future cooperation.

Meeting Held of Past and Present Thai RONPAKU Fellows

On 14 March, the JSPS-NRCT Joint Meeting for RONPAKU Fellows was held by JSPS's liaison office in Bangkok and the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) at the Hotel Rama Gardens in Bangkok. It was the first such meeting to assemble under one roof past and present Thai RONPAKU fellows.

The RONPAKU (Dissertation Ph.D.) Program was inaugurated in 1978. Over the ensuing period of some 25 years, a total of 360 fellows have received their dissertation PhDs from Japanese universities. Among them, the largest number, 136 fellows, has been from Thailand. Altogether 76 people, including fellows currently doing research toward their dissertation PhDs, attended the subject meeting.

At the opening ceremony, remarks were delivered by Dr. Hirokazu Higuchi, director, JSPS Bangkok Liaison Office; Miss Wanasri Samanasana, deputy secretary general, NRCT; and Dr. Keisuke Taira, inspector general, JSPS. Representing past and current RONPAKU fellows, the below-listed four individuals gave presentations on such subjects as what they learned through their participation in the RONPAKU Program and their current involvements with Japan.

Dr. Napavarn Noparatnaraporn: Kasetsart University (FY1982-1986, Hiroshima University)



Dr. Napavarn Noparatnaraporn

Dr. La-or Chalurkit: Mahidol University (FY1994-1998, The University of Tokyo)

Dr. Chuanpis Aroonrungsikul: Kasetsart University (FY1997-2001, Kyoto University)

Ms Patcharawalai Wongboonsin: Chularongkorn University (FY2001-present, Kyushu University)

The meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for Thai researchers who share the common experience of having studied in Japan to get together and swap information while rekindling memories; and in the process, stimulate each other in a way that sparked new ideas which may be tested in future research initiatives.

Reception Held for New Director of London Office

On 18 March, a reception was held at JSPS's London office to welcome its new director, Prof. Yasuhisa Kanaguchi, and bid farewell to its outgoing director, Mr. Kunio Sato. In January, Mr. Sato left the office to assume the new post of director general, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO. Concurrently, Prof. Kanaguchi came to the office from his professorship at the National Institution for Academic Degrees. The reception was held to introduce him as the new office director to a wide embrace of partners and affiliates in the UK.

The venue was The Marble Hall of The Royal Society, JSPS's main counterpart organization in the UK. The reception began at 6 p.m. with JSPS director general Mr. Motoyuki Ono's introduction of Prof. Kanaguchi, followed by remarks from the new office director himself. Then, Lord May of Oxford, president of The Royal Society, de-



New director, Prof. Yasuhisa Kanaguchi

livered a welcome address and offered a celebratory toast. Congenial conversation among the guests ensued.



Lord May, Mr. Motoyuki Ono

Attending the reception were some 70 people engaged in science and administration in the two countries and with close ties to JSPS's main office in Tokyo or its liaison office in London. Included among them were Sir John Boyd, former British Ambassador to Japan; Prof. John O'Reilly, chief executive of Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC); and Sir Brian Heap, currently master of St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge and former foreign secretary of The Royal Society. From Japan were Mr. Masaki Orita, Japanese Ambassador to the UK; Mr. Kohki Kanno, director general, The Japan Foundation; and Mr. Makoto Kakebayashi, director general, JETRO London.

Japan-Sweden Colloquium Held on Nanotechnology

This colloquium was held on 17 March at the Grand Hotel in Lund in the south of Sweden. Cosponsored by JSPS's liaison office in Stockholm and Lund University, the colloquium addressed frontier trends in nanotechnology. It was the second in a series of advanced science colloquia sponsored by the JSPS office, the first being held last May on developmental biology.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Prof.

Yoshiro Shimura, the office's director, followed by welcoming remarks from Prof. Lars Samuelson, who represented the cosponsoring Lund University. He described the role played in nano-research by the region from south Sweden, with Lund at its hub, to Copenhagen.

Giving presentations were five experts from Japan and six from Sweden. On the Japanese side, they were the coordinator Dr. Masaaki Tanaka, The University of Tokyo;

Dr. Toshimasa Fujisawa, NTT Basic Research Laboratories; Dr. Riichiro Saito, Tohoku University; Dr. Hiroyuki Akinaga, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; and Dr. Kohzo Ito, The University of Tokyo. On the Swedish side, they were the coordinator Prof. Reine Wallenberg, Lund University; Prof. David Haviland, Royal Institute of Technology; Dr. Mikael Käll, Chalmers University of Technology; Dr. Tatiana Makarova, Umeå University; Dr. Carlo Canali, Kalmar University; and Dr. Stephanie Reimann, Lund University. The hall was packed with attendants from all around Sweden, with some even coming from Denmark, who engaged the lecturers in active discussions.

On the following day, the group moved from the hotel to the University's physics department, where they continued their discussions and observed the University's research facilities. Prof. Samuelson offered an overall outline of nano-research being conducted in Sweden and introduced the activities of the research team he leads. In turn, Dr. Tanaka presented an overall picture of nano-research being pursued in Japan, while Dr. Fujisawa introduced the state of work in this field being conducted at the NTT Basic Research Laboratories. After lunch, the group visited the Science & Technology/Maritime Museum in Malmö to observe a nanotechnology exhibit there. On that note, they concluded a very meaningful two days of activities.



Participants listening to lecture

As Lund University is a center of excellence for nano-research in Sweden, it can be expected that this colloquium will lead to further collaboration between the two countries in the field of nanoscience research.

In the planning of this colloquium, the organizers received considerable cooperation from Dr. Hiroyuki Sakaki, professor (specialist in electron physics in quantum microstructures), Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo.



JSPS London Liaison Office Held “Nano-Materials Seminar” at University of Oxford

On 24-25 March, JSPS's London Liaison Office held a one-and-a-half-day event at the University of Oxford. Entitled “Nano-Materials Seminar,” the event was presided over by Prof. George Smith, FRS, head of the University's Department of Materials, and was co-chaired by Prof. David Clary, head of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division, Oxford.

The seminar on the first day was held at The Denys Wilkinson Building, Oxford. Prof. Susan Iversen, pro-vice-chancellor for planning and resource allocation, Oxford, offered some warm welcoming remarks. The speakers from Japan included Prof. Yasuhiko Arakawa, The University of Tokyo; Prof. Kohei Uosaki, Hokkaido Uni-



versity; Prof. Terunobu Miyazaki, Tohoku University; and Prof. Yoshio Bando, National Institute for Materials Science. From the UK, the speakers were Prof. Andrew Briggs, University of Oxford; Prof. Mark Welland, FRS, University of Cambridge; and Prof. Peter Dobson, University of Oxford's Begbroke Science Park.

They gave presentations on various nanoscience-related research themes, including quantum dots, carbon nanotubes, nanoparticles and nanocomposites, and quantum computing.

The second day of the event started with a visit conducted by Prof. Dobson and Prof. Smith to the University's Begbroke Science Park. Following the visit, workshop sessions were held on the above-listed themes.

Attracting some 100 participants, the seminar was held very successfully. The participants comprised academics and corporate representatives from both Japan and the UK, giving rise to expectations of the event serving as a matrix for promoting university-industry research linkages over a wide cross-section of the nanoscience domain.

In convening this seminar, the organizers received considerable support and encouragement from Dr. Teruo Kishi, president of the National Institute for Materials Science.

8th Japan-Germany Science Symposium Held in Würzburg

On 9-10 May, JSPS's Bonn Liaison Office jointly sponsored with the JSPS German Fellows' alumni association (Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS-Stipendiaten e.V.) the eighth in a series of Japan-Germany Science Symposia held from 1996 to promote new dimensions of scientific exchange between the two countries. This symposium, entitled “Science and Society,” was held at Tagungszentrum Festung Marienberg in Würzburg, Germany.

The symposium opened with words of greeting from Mr. Takeshi Yagi, minister, Japanese Embassy; Prof. Dr. Theodor Berchem, president, Würzburg University and president, DAAD; and Dr. Manfred Osten, secretary general, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, followed by welcoming remarks from Mr. Motoyuki Ono, director gener-

al, JSPS. Ensuing were two days of sessions featuring five Japanese and German lecturers, each a leader with abundant experience in his respective field, who delved into various facets of the theme.

On the first day, Mr. Tei-ichi Sato, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO, spoke on various issues and challenges related to fostering synergy between science and society, after which Mr. Hajime Sasaki, chairman of the board, NEC Corporation, gave an overview on the role of information technology (ICT) in achieving sustainable society. Then, Dr. Anton Kraus, leader Portfolio Management Insecticides/New Molecules, Bayer CropScience, spoke on the topic “Perspectives of Crop Protection

Chemistry for Sustainable Agriculture in Japan and Germany.”

The second day began with an introduction, jointly presented by Dr. Gernot Gad, DFG, and Mr. Sho Hagio, JSPS's Bonn Liaison Office, on instruments for funding German-Japanese scientific exchange by the AvH Foundation, DAAD, DFG and JSPS. Following it was a presentation by Prof. Dr. Klaus Steigleder, University of Bochum, Institute for Philosophy, on the subject “Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and the Moral Status of the Human Embryo.” Next, Prof. Dr. Takeshi Sasaki, president, The University of Tokyo, spoke on the political implications of science and technology.

The symposium was attended by a record 300 people including former JSPS fellows and AvH Foundation researchers, who after each presentation engaged in animated Q&A discussions.

Held in tandem with the symposium was the Annual Assembly of Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS-Stipendiaten e.V., at which Prof. Dr. Uwe Czarntetzki stepped down from the chairmanship that he has held for the past eight years since the association was established. Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhau from Marburg University succeeded



to the chair, marking a new era in the association's evolution.

After the Assembly, all the attendants participated in a tour of Würzburg, including the Siebold-Museum, and held a social gathering. These events offered a good opportunity for the Japanese and German colleagues to cultivate mutual ties and friendships.

This very successfully held symposium worked to deepen understanding of various issues related to “science and society” with a special focus on Japan and Germany. Concomitantly, it contributed significantly to the promotion of scientific exchange between the two countries.



Participants of symposium in Würzburg

Recent Visitors to JSPS (January-March 2003)

Dr. Georg Friedrich Melchers

Dr. Melchers, from the University of Basel in Switzerland, was invited to Japan by The University of Tokyo under the JSPS Award for Eminent Scientists. He paid a courtesy visit to JSPS on 8 January. For his most brilliant record of research achievements in the fields of infectious diseases and immunology, Dr. Melchers received the 1996 Robert Koch Prize, which is awarded to only one or two outstanding researchers each year. Before engaging in discussions, JSPS executive director Mr. Koji Nakanishi conferred on Dr. Melchers the JSPS Award in recognition of his internationally acclaimed research accomplishments.



From left: Dr. Kenichi Iga (JSPS), host scientist Prof. Kiyoshi Takatsu (Tokyo Univ.), Dr. Georg Friedrich Melchers, Mr. Koji Nakanishi (JSPS)

Dr. Chung-Duk Kim

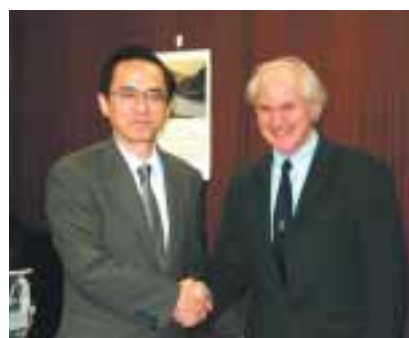
Dr. Kim, chairman & CEO of the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF), visited JSPS on 17 February to exchange views with its executive.



From left: Mr. Natsuki Omi, Mr. Koji Nakanishi, Dr. Kenichi Iga, Mr. Motoyuki Ono from JSPS; and Dr. Chung-Duk Kim, Mr. Byung-Whan Ho, Dr. Kyeong-Su Jang from KOSEF

Sir Harold Kroto

Sir Harold, professor of The University of Sussex, UK, was invited to Japan by Toyo University under the JSPS Award for Eminent Scientists. He paid a courtesy visit to JSPS director general Mr. Motoyuki Ono on 17 March. Sir Harold received the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This was his third visit to Japan under the Award program.



Mr. Motoyuki Ono, Sir Harold Kroto

Dr. Yoshio Masui

Dr. Masui, professor emeritus of University of Toronto, was invited to Japan by Konan University under the JSPS Award for Eminent Scientists. He paid a courtesy visit to JSPS on 30 January. For his epochal achievements in elucidating cell division mechanisms, Dr. Masui was awarded the prestigious Albert Lasker Award for Medical Research in 1998. Before engaging in discussions, JSPS executive director Dr. Kenichi Iga conferred on Dr. Masui the JSPS Award in recognition of his internationally acclaimed research accomplishments.



From left: Mr. Tsuyoshi Enomoto (JSPS), Dr. Kenichi Iga (JSPS), Dr. Yoshio Masui, host scientist Prof. Haruyuki Sonobe (Konan Univ.), Assoc. Prof. Takahito Nishikata (Konan Univ.)

JSPS Launches Alumni Follow-Up Activities

Over its first 15 years, more than 4,000 researchers from all over the world have come to Japan under the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers Program. After completing their up-to-two year tenures, some of these fellows return to their home countries, others remain in Japan and still others go on to different countries to pursue their research activities.

Former JSPS fellow Dr. Stuart Fraser, who came to Japan from Australia, is now engaged in genetic research at Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany. He wrote, "The wonderful time I experienced in Japan was largely due to the supportive nature of the lab I worked in." (*Nature* vol. 419/31 Oct 2002)

Considering former fellows, such as Dr. Fraser, who have accrued experience in Japan under the JSPS Postdoctoral

Fellowships for Foreign Researchers Program to be valuable assets in advancing research between Japan and its counterpart countries, JSPS has launched follow-up activities aimed at retaining contact and communication with and among them.

In the initial phase of these activities, JSPS is now contacting all former fellows to make a database list of them. In addition, it will on a trial basis support the establishment and operation of JSPS alumni associations in some countries with a JSPS overseas liaison office; namely, the US, the UK, France and Sweden. This effort is being built upon the success of the JSPS Alumni Club in Germany (see JSPS Quarterly No. 2, p5).

If you have any questions about registration, please contact us at the following address: jsp-alumni@jps.go.jp

Events

Bangkok Office

New Director's Commemoration Lecture
Bangkok, 22 July 2003

London Office

Symposium "Beyond Globalization in Japan and Asia: A Multi-level Approach"
Sheffield University, 25-27 July 2003

Stockholm Office

Forum "Frontiers in Life Science"
Nobel Forum, Stockholm, 27 October 2003

Strasbourg Office

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

Recruitments

For FY2003

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships (Short-Term) for North American and European Researchers

Application deadline to JSPS: 4-8 August 2003

For FY2004

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers
JSPS Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short/Long-Term)

Application deadline to JSPS: 8-12 September 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.jps.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



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.jsps.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.jsps.go.jp/e-admin/about.html].

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**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.