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JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Quarterly

TOPICS

Message by Motoyuki Ono, JSPS President

On 1 October 2003, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science became an "independent administrative institution," turning an epochal leaf in its 72-year history of transition from first a private, nonprofit foundation to a quasi-government organization. Over this period, JSPS has, as a core agency promoting Japanese science, initiated and carried out a wide range of programs to advance scientific research, including research grants, researcher cultivation, and international exchange and cooperation. In addition, last year JSPS began performing the selection and evaluation functions of the 21st Century COE Program.

As another milestone, this year JSPS established within its organization the "Research Center for Science Systems," which enlists the participation of university-affiliated frontline researchers in carrying out studies and evaluations germane to science promotion. The Center, thus, enhances JSPS's ability to exercise program accountability from a scientific perspective.

Japan's ability to play a leading role in this budding "knowledge century" will hinge on advancing science and technology. Therefore, the government is placing top policy priority on making Japan a nation undergirded by S&T creativity of the world's highest caliber.

At such a time of heightened need for promotion of research that is highly diverse and rich in originality, the role played by JSPS becomes all the more vital.

Giving maximum expression to the merits of being an independent administrative institution, JSPS will carry out its programs with increased flexibility, efficiency and transparency. While working to contribute to the advancement of science in Japan, it is the renewed desire of all our staffs to further develop JSPS as an organization that wins and enjoys the trust of researchers and academic communities throughout the world.

To this end, I ask all of you for your support and cooperation.

JSPS Sets Mid-term Plan

On 1 October, JSPS was reorganized and newly established as an "independent administrative institution." This change in legal status gives JSPS and other newly formed independent institutions the latitude to more efficiently and effectively conduct their operations. Within this context, they are given 3-5 year objectives by their competent ministries, in JSPS's case the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). To meet these mid-term objectives, each institution drafts a mid-term plan and implements it with the approval of its competent ministry.

Accordingly, JSPS has established a mid-term plan for a period of 4.5 years. In it, JSPS's main programs remain the same as in the past; namely, funding research, fostering researchers, and furthering international scientific exchange.

In the area of research funding, JSPS will carry out the application screening, grant distribution and project evaluation functions of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Japan's premier research-support program. The Research Center for Science Systems, newly established within JSPS, will work to enhance the quality of the selection and evaluation processes of the Grants-in-Aid program, while examining and devising other funding formats.

JSPS's thrust in the area of fostering researchers will center upon fellowship programs aimed at doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers in Japan. They will support young researchers across a wide spectrum of fields in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. At present, there are some 4,400 recipients of these fellowships; the mid-term plan calls for increasing the number, especially of doctoral students.

Through its international exchange activities, JSPS will in cooperation with science-promotion agencies of other countries support joint research projects, seminars and researcher exchanges in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks, while inviting foreign researchers to Japan. Among JSPS's fellowship programs, the goal is to invite 2,050 researchers a year under JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers. JSPS's overseas offices will organize local forums and symposiums. JSPS will work to enhance the openly solicited grant and fellowship application procedures for its various programs. It will also survey the satisfaction level of program participants and reflect the findings in future program design.

Program Officers Assigned to Research Center for Science Systems

On 1 July, the Research Center for Science Systems was established for the purpose of using outstanding researchers to enhance JSPS's program selection and evaluation functions and to strengthen the planning and execution capacity of its overall operation. On 1 September, the Center installed a total of 48 staffs: One senior program officer in each of its eight program groups and one program officer in each of the 40 research fields.

A dedicated group, comprising a senior program officer and program officers, has been established for each program category. They conduct studies and research on scientific trends and science-promotion policies in their respective area and offer proposals and advice on the selection and evaluation procedures across the span of JSPS programs, including those to support research costs, foster young researchers, and promote international exchange. The senior program officers also coordinate activities within their groups, and they participate in the Center's program planning deliberations.

In addition to the eight groups, another integrated group, staffed on a collateral duty basis by program officers of related fields, is being established. It will endeavor to create interdisciplinary fields and brand new fields.

In the next fiscal year, plans are to double the Center's staffing from 48 to 96, with 16 senior program officers and 80 program officers.

Researcher Staffing by Field

Program Groups (9)	Research Fields (40)	Senior Program Officers (8)	Program Officers (40)
Humanities Group	Philosophy	1	1
	Literature, Linguistics		1
	History		1
	Human Geography, Cultural Anthropology		1
Social Sciences Group	Law, Political Science	1	1
	Economics, Business Administration		1
	Sociology		1
	Education, Psychology		1
Mathematical and Physical Sciences Group	Mathematics	1	1
	Physics (particle physics)		1
	Physics (condensed matter physics)		1
	Earth and Planetary Sciences		1
	Plasma Science		1
Chemistry Group	Basic Chemistry	1	1
	Interdisciplinary Chemistry		1
	Material Chemistry		1
Engineering Sciences Group	Applied Physics, Engineering Basics	1	1
	Mechanical Engineering		1
	Synthetic Engineering		1
	Electrical and Electronics Engineering		1
	Informatics		1
	Civil Engineering, Architecture		1
	Material Engineering, Process Engineering		1
Biological Sciences Group	Basic Biology	1	1
	Biological Sciences		1
	Anthropology		1
Agricultural Sciences Group	Agriculture, Agricultural Chemistry, Interdisciplinary Agricultural Sciences	1	1
	Forestry		1
	Fisheries		1
	Agro-economics		1
	Agro-engineering		1
	Animal Science, Veterinary Medical Science		1
Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Sciences Group	Pharmaceutical Sciences	1	1
	Basic Medicine		1
	Internal Medicine		1
	Surgical Medicine		1
	Dentistry		1
	Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences, Medical Engineering		1
	Social Medicine		1
	Nursing		1
Interdisciplinary and Frontier Sciences Group	Information, Environment, etc.	Concurrent post	Concurrent post

2003 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology

This year's Prize was awarded to Dr. Shinya Inoué. On 11 September, the Committee on the International Prize for Biology (chaired by Dr. Saburo Nagakura, president of the Japan Academy) selected Dr. Inoué as the 2003 Prize recipient based on the recommendation of the Prize's selection committee. The specialization of the Prize rotates annually, with this year's being "Cell Biology."

Achievements Recognized by the Award

Dr. Inoué has made major contributions to fields including cell division, the cytoskeleton, and cell motility through his observations of living cells using innovative light microscopy methods which he himself developed. Among his most remarkable achievements is his use of polarization microscopy to demonstrate the reality of spindle fibers and to show that spindle fiber microtubules are in dynamic equilibrium between assembly and disassembly, a discovery which transformed the static view of cells to a dynamic image. His work also paved the way for single-molecule imaging in living cells. Dr. Inoué's many important contributions to the understanding of dynamic structural change in cells and their component supramolecular structures make him a worthy recipient of the International Prize for Biology.

Education and Career

1944	B.S. (Zoology) from The University of Tokyo, Japan
1951	Ph.D. (Biology) from Princeton University, USA
1951-1953	Instructor in Anatomy, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
1953-1954	Assistant Professor of Biology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
1954-1959	Research Associate to Associate Professor of Biology, Instructor in Optics, University of Rochester, NY, USA
1959-1966	Professor and Chairman, Department of Cytology, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH, USA
1966-1982	Professor of Biology and Director, Program in Biophysical Cytology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
1979-1987	Instructor-in-Chief, Analytical and Quantitative Microscopy, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, USA
1986-present	Distinguished Scientist, Director, Architectural Dynamics in Living Cells Program, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, USA

Dr. Shinya Inoué

Sketch of Dr. Inoué's Research Work

Dr. Inoué has dedicated his long research career to the attempt to understand how cells divide. Using living cells, he developed methods for directly observing the dynamic changes in supramolecular structures that accompany cell division. He is particularly hailed as a distinguished pioneer for his major contributions to the development of light microscopy. His polarizing microscope made possible the greatest advances in cell biology since the development of the phase-contrast microscope in the 1930s, rendering visible the regular alignment of macromolecules in living cells.

Using this technology, in 1953 Dr. Inoué demonstrated that spindles—then widely believed to be an artefact of fixation—are a real structure in living cells and that they are involved in the partition of chromosomes into daughter cells, thus settling a controversy that had lasted half a century. At the same time, he predicted that spindles were composed of regularly arranged macromolecular filaments; these were identified as microtubules by electron microscopy in the 1960s. In a series of experiments, Dr. Inoué revealed the highly dynamic nature of spindle microtubules, which he showed to be a self-assembly system consisting of a dynamic equilibrium between assembly (polymerization) and disassembly (depolymerization). He went on to propose that the assembly dynamics of these microtubules might be the driving force for chromosome movements in mitosis, which is still the most compelling view today. Dr. Inoué's discoveries transformed the prevailing static image of the cell, which was based mainly on electron microscopy, to a dynamic image. These findings led the way to what has become the accepted view in modern cell biology—the idea that most cell components, including actin fibers and the membrane system, are intrinsically dynamic, undergoing a continuous process of assembly and disassembly.

Since the early 1980s, Dr. Inoué has made ingenious use of video cameras to enhance the imaging of living cells, and has also helped to pioneer technology for obtaining super-high resolution. This technology enables researchers to see a single macromolecule (or, more precisely, its diffraction images). Today, the dynamic imaging technology for cells and cell components that has developed from these beginnings makes it possible to observe the movements of a single motor molecule, for example. These advances have led to unprecedented growth in the field of cell biology.

Dr. Inoué continues today to work at improving the quality of both microscope optics and imaging systems. He recently invented a centrifuge polarizing microscope that is being used to study the dynamic stratification and alignment of fine structures in living cells. Most recently, he demonstrated the fluorescence anisotropy of Green Fluorescence Protein (which is an invaluable tool for molecular and cell biologists) and the use of parallel polars to vastly increase the sensitivity for detecting fluorescence anisotropy.

In addition to having had a profound influence on cell biology through his research work, Dr. Inoué has also contributed greatly to the training of researchers and the dissemination of light microscopy techniques. For example, since 1989 he has directed an annual course in Analytical and Quantitative Light Microscopy (AQLM) for scientists at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. AQLM typically involves 28 students and 100 faculty with expertise in optics, microscopy, electronic cameras, and computers. More an annual meeting than a course, it has stimulated the development of microscope optics, fluorescence methods, and both video and digital imaging technology, and has inspired similar courses around the world. Also, Dr. Inoué's book *Video Microscopy*, which he published in 1986 and later revised with Dr. Ken Spring, is the best work in its field and has had a worldwide impact on biomedical science.

These accomplishments have not only contributed enormously to the progress of cell biology but, by enhancing the understanding of cells, have furthered the development of biology as a whole.

International Prize for Biology—Background and Procedure

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 entire domain of biological sciences. Each year, the Prize is awarded in a chosen field to a world-renown 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, The 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 nominated candidates, the selection committee chooses, as a rule, one to recommend as the year's prize recipient. (This year saw 44 nominations received for candidates hailing from 14 countries, or 41 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 endowment is established within JSPS, which applies contributions from corporations and individual donors to the Committee's operation.

Ceremony and Symposium

A ceremony to award the Prize to Dr. Inoué was held at the Japan Academy, located in Tokyo's Ueno Park, on 1 December. To celebrate Dr. Inoué's receipt of the Prize, a commemorative international symposium, the nineteenth in the series to date, was held at Nara-Ken New Public Hall, Nara, over the 2-day period of 3-4 December.

At the ceremony, a certificate, medal, imperial gift, and the prize of 10-million yen were presented to Dr. Inoué. Both the ceremony and the accompanying reception party were attended by Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Further details on the International Prize for Biology can be found on JSPS's homepage.
[http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-biol/main.html]

Briefing and Reception Held for Swedish Rectors' Delegation

On 21 October, JSPS held a briefing for a delegation of university rectors visiting Japan from Sweden. That afternoon, a reception was also held to give Japanese university presidents who are interested in exchange with Sweden an opportunity to meet and converse with the members of the delegation. The visit of 15 Swedish university rectors, led by Prof. Bo Sundqvist, president of Uppsala University, and Prof. Hans Wigzell, president of Karolinska Institute, was conducted under the auspices of Sweden's National Agency for Higher Education. JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono hosted the reception by JSPS, which has been engaged in fruitful scientific exchange with Sweden over the past 20 years.

Before the reception, a briefing was held for the Swedish delegation on JSPS's program and its collaborative relationship with Sweden at the office of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Following it, the group moved to Tokai University Alumni Hall in the Kasumigaseki Building to attend the reception.

The reception began with greetings from Prof. Ono and Mr. Mikael Lindström, Ambassador of Sweden, followed with a toast offered by Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, chairman of JSPS's Academic Advisory Board. With Prof. Ono's jokes striking chords of laughter, a convivial mood prevailed. The Swedish rectors conversed with 11 presidents and vice-presidents of Tokyo universities, including Prof. Akio Suzuki, president of Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Prof. Masuo Aizawa, president of Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Prof. Seizo Miyata, president of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, and with Dr. Saburo Nagakura, president of The Japan Academy, Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, president of Science Council of Japan, Prof. Sunao Onuma, president of Association of Private Universities of Japan, and Mr. Yukihide Hayashi, director-general of Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT.

Prof. Motoyuki Ono, Prof. Hans Wigzell

Report on Third Science Forum in Stockholm

On 27 October, JSPS's office in Stockholm held in cooperation with Karolinska Institute the third Science Forum at the Institute's Nobel Forum. This event, featuring lectures by frontline Swedish and Japanese researchers in the subject field, is the center piece of the office's annual schedule of activities.

This year's theme was "Frontiers in Life Science." The program began with greetings from JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and Karolinska Institute president Prof. Hans Wigzell, followed by four speakers from each side. Representing Japan were Prof. Shigetada Nakanishi, Kyoto University; Prof. Hisato Kondoh, Osaka University; and Prof. Yusuke Nakamura and Prof. Hitoshi Sakano, both from The University of Tokyo. Representing Sweden were Prof. Thomas Edlund, Umeå University; and Prof. Torgny Svensson, Prof. Klas G. Wiman, and Dr. Ivanka Savic-Berglund, all from Karolinska Institute. Fitting of the theme, all the lecturers demonstrated vividly how they are pushing the envelope of research in their respective fields.

Attendants with ears pricked toward podium

The venue, Nobel Forum, is famous as the place where the Nobel Prizes in Physiology and Medicine are announced each year. This year's highly animated event packed the hall with nearly 100 researchers and students. That many of them were of the younger generation attested to the achievement of the forum's principal objective, which was to expand the range of research and exchange between the two countries.

ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Held for Young Researchers

Over a 6-day period from 26-31 October, the first ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference was held on the theme "Functional Genomics—From the Bench to Bioinformatics." Its venue was San Feliu, Spain, located around 120 kilometers north of Barcelona. The conference was sponsored jointly by JSPS and the European Science Foundation (ESF), with cooperation from The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, and moral support by the Government of Catalonia.

At the opening ceremony, welcome addresses were delivered by ESF secretary general Prof. Enric Banda and JSPS executive director Mr. Koji Nakanishi, followed by words of greeting from Linköping University president Prof. Bertil Andersson, a life science researcher who will be ESF's next secretary general. Celebrating ESF's first conference to be carried out in partnership with Japan, Dr. Andreu Mas-Colell, minister for Universities, Research and the Information Society of the Government of Catalonia, graced the ceremony with his attendance. A news release was also issued to commemorate the event.

The idea for the conference sprung from a June 2001 workshop held between JSPS and the embassies of EU countries, at which a proposal was made to support young researchers on both sides by strengthening cooperation in advancing joint research and exchange aimed at them. Based on that proposal, JSPS and ESF initiated this conference series for young researchers. By inviting the world's leading researchers in the subject field to address the participants and engage them in discussion, the conferences are meant to open new horizons for the young researchers, while allowing them to build networks among themselves. This was the first multilateral conference for JSPS to hold in collaboration with Europe, and will be convened annually as an ongoing series that addresses cutting-edge scientific research themes.

To conduct the conference, 21 world-renown authorities in the subject field were invited. Seven, including co-chair Prof. Satoru Miyano, The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, were from Japan, and 14, including co-chair Dr. Gunnar von Heijne, professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Stockholm University, hailed from Sweden, Spain, France, Germany, the UK and Denmark. Fifty talented young researchers, chosen through a rigorous selection process, participated in the conference. Thirty were from Europe and 20 from Japan. Highly meaningful lectures were delivered and, with the gentle prodding of the co-chairs, animated Q&A discussions evolved, advancing the dialogue.

The participants commented that they would like to see an ongoing biennial convening of conferences on the same topic, with some saying that they wanted to work to prepare themselves to participate as lecturers in future conferences. Given this strong orientation to the future and expressions of thanks by the participants for the valuable opportunity the conference gave them to familiarize themselves with each other's research and to cultivate mutual friendships, further Euro-Japanese cooperation in this vein can be expected in the future.

The second conference in this series is scheduled to be held in Japan next year.

Participants outside the conference venue

Events Held in Asian Countries

KOREA

Symposium Held under Tokyo Tech-KAIST Core University Project

Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech), Japan, and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) held a large-scale symposium on Advanced Polymeric Materials and Technology (APMT-2003) on 4-7 August in Gyeongju, Korea.

As Tokyo Tech and KAIST are leading research universities in their respective countries, JSPS and Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) decided in 2000 to support a collaboration between them on polymer research through the Core University Program.

This symposium is aimed at exchanging ideas and advancing research on polymeric materials and technologies in five topical areas: (1) Polymer Chemistry, (2) Polymer Physics, (3) Polymers for Bio and Environmental Applications, (4) Polymers for Information Technology, and (5) Polymeric Nano-composites.

APMT 2003 accommodated over 300 researchers including some 100 from Japan, many of whom are leading experts in the subject fields. Also attending were young researchers, mainly PhD and masters students who will shoulder responsibility for the next generation of research in their two countries.

At the opening ceremony on 5 August, Prof. Sung Chul Kim of KAIST, Korean coordinator for the core university project, and his Japanese counterpart Prof. Masa-aki Kakimoto of Tokyo Tech welcomed all the participants to the conference. In their opening addresses, Prof. Chong Shik Chin, KOSEF's director general, and Prof. Dong Ho Lee, president of Polymer Society of Korea, praised highly the cooperation and progress achieved under the project to date.

Prof. Keisuke Taira, JSPS's inspector general, remarked that material science is a field of great innovative potential, and that exchange under the project among young Japanese and Korean scientists is of vital importance, particularly in familiarizing them with each other's "neighborhoods."

New Core University Project Launched with Korea

A new core university project has been started between Kyushu University, Japan, and Chungnam National University, Korea, to advance research on the theme "Next Generation Internet." An inauguration ceremony and general symposium were held on 5-6 September at Chungnam National University, with close to 100 people in attendance including Mr. Motoyuki Ono, director general of JSPS, and Dr. Chung-Duk Kim, chairman & CEO of the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF).

The project comprises five major themes: (1) Networking Technologies, (2) Security, (3) Next-Generation GRID, (4) e-Learning, and (5) Virtual Reality/ Museum and Digital Library, under which a wide range of joint research projects and seminars are expected to be carried out.

At the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Ono expressed high expectations for the development and success of the project given the fine leadership of the two coordinators, Prof. Setsuo Arikawa, Kyushu University, and Prof. Dae Yong Kim, Chungnam National University.

PHILIPPINES

Achievements by RONPAKU Graduates Celebrated in the Philippines

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Republic of the Philippines hosted an award ceremony for Filipino RONPAKU graduates, attended by Mr. Koji Nakanishi, executive director of JSPS.

Eleven researchers from the Philippines successfully obtained their PhDs from Japanese universities during the 2000-2002 period. DOST invited nine of them (two being abroad at the time) to this special event held in their honor on 7 August in Manila. Mr. Nakanishi and the Hon. Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, secretary of DOST, presented RONPAKU medals to each of the graduates.

Medal recipients with DOST and JSPS staffs

Tokyo Tech and UP Diliman Hold Core University Symposium

Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) and the University of the Philippines, Diliman (UPD) held a symposium on "Environmental Issues Related to Infrastructure Development" under the JSPS-DOST Core University Program in Manila on 8-9 August.

This symposium, organized to introduce the progress made in the first four years of the core university project between the two universities, was attended by 130 people including 42 researchers from Japan. Sixty-one papers were presented and discussed over the two-day event. Mr. Koji Nakanishi, JSPS's executive director, attended the event and praised the cooperation achieved by scientists from the two countries.

The organizers were delighted to have the Hon. Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, secretary of DOST, and Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, chancellor of UPD, as special guests at the opening ceremony on 8 August.

INDIA

Seventh Meeting of Japan-India Science Council

The seventh meeting of the Japan-India Science Council, held in New Delhi, India on 20 September, was co-arranged by DST (Department of Science and Technology, India) and JSPS. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Saburo Nagakura, president of the Japan Academy, and Prof. C.N.R. Rao, honorary president of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.

Since 1993, JSPS and DST have been arranging meetings of the Council, which charts the course of scientific cooperation between the two countries, especially in the following six priority areas:

- Molecular Structure, Dynamics, and Molecular Materials, including Supramolecular Science
- Advanced Materials, including Polymers and Nanomaterials
- Modern Biology and Biotechnology
- Manufacturing Sciences
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Surface and Interface Science, including Catalysis

In these areas, JSPS and DST jointly support scientist exchanges, joint seminars, and joint research projects organized by scientists from both countries. The purpose of the seventh Council Meeting was to monitor the progress and achievements of these collaborative activities over the 2001-2003 period and to confirm the activities to be implemented in the 2003-2004 period, while planning additional collaborations between Japan and India.

Recent Visitors to JSPS (August - October 2003)

Delegation from Chinese Academy of Sciences

A delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), one of JSPS's oldest and closest partners, came to Japan on 13 August to hold a Joint Staff Meeting (JSM) with JSPS.

The JSM, chaired by Mr. Koji Nakanishi, JSPS's executive director, and Mr. Qiu Hua-Sheng, director of CAS's Asian, African and Latin American Affairs Division, discussed the progress of the Core University, RONPAKU, and Scientist Exchange Programs with an eye to better understanding related circumstances and issues on each side. Among these programs, it was agreed that the core university project between The University of Tokyo and the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), supported by JSPS and CAS between 1993-2002, was a very successful collaboration in terms of its effective working network between engineering researchers in the two countries.

Members of CAS delegation and JSPS staff

Delegation from Indonesia's Directorate General of Higher Education

A delegation from the Directorate General of Higher Education, Department of National Education (DGHE) in Indonesia visited JSPS on 24 September to hold a Joint Staff Meeting.

At the meeting, JSPS and DGHE discussed many items of business, including the implementation of the Core University, RONPAKU, and Scientist Exchange Programs.

Bottom row from left: Mr. Koji Nakanishi (JSPS), Prof. Dr. Sukamto (DGHE), Prof. Dr. Satryo Soemantri Brodjonegoro (DGHE), Mr. Natsuki Omi (JSPS).
Back row: staff of JSPS's Asian Program Division.

Events

Bonn Office

Japan-Germany Colloquium 2004 "Quantum Optics"
Wildbad, 9-11 February 2004

Japan-Germany Science Symposium
Halle, 14-15 May 2004

Bangkok Office

JSPS-NRCT Joint Meeting for RONPAKU Fellows
Bangkok, 17 February 2004

Stockholm Office

Colloquium "What to Analyze About Contemporary Japanese Society"
Göteborg University, 21-22 April 2004

Recruitments

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (Short-Term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 9-13 February 2004

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (Standard)
JSPS Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-Term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 10-14 May 2004

For details, ask a 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/english/e-rftf/gaiyo/gaiyo_publication.html

Life in Japan for Foreign Researchers 2002
The 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.

JSPS Launches New "JSPS Core-to-Core Program"

From this fiscal year, JSPS has initiated a new program for the purpose of building and expanding a cooperative international framework in leading-edge fields of science among universities and research institutions in Japan and the following 15 western nations: The US, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand.

This program is given two implementation types: Strategic Research Networks (Type A) and Integrated Action Initiatives (Type B). The objective of the first is to expand and strengthen research networks that will from a relatively long-term perspective sustain and advance cooperative relations between researchers and research institutions in Japan and other scientifically advanced nations. The second format is provided to support short-term collaborations among such researchers—ones that will lay the foundations for establishing cooperative research networks.

As to the concrete activities to be carried out under the program, for each designated field coordinators will be appointed in both Japan and the counterpart nations. Transcending their own affiliated institutions, the coordinators will form research groups to advance collaborations that combine the three components of researcher exchanges, joint research activities, and scientific meetings.

Type B projects will be allowed a maximum duration of two years with funding of up to ¥20 million per year. Recruitment in Japan for FY 2003 and FY 2004 projects was conducted in November.

Updated Homepage

JSPS has newly formatted its homepage. Please visit the English version at the following address:
http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/index.html

Some of JSPS's Divisions Move to New Location

The expansion of JSPS's functions in administering the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program has caused us to outgrow our building at Ichibancho in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. As a result, the Research Fellowship Division, University-Industry Cooperation and Publication Support Division, Research Aid Division, Research Evaluation Division, Research and Analysis Division, and the Research Center for Science Systems moved their offices to the Sumitomo-Ichibancho FS Bldg in the same neighborhood on 1 September.

Staff at work in new building

For further information on JSPS's organization and programs, please visit our website [www.jsps.go.jp/english/index.html], 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.

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

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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.