

No. **7**
2004

JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Quarterly



TOPICS

● JSPS's FY2004 Budget	2
● Ceremony for 2003 International Prize for Biology	4
● Research Fellowships for Young Scientists	4
● Postgenome Forum Held in Strasbourg	6
● Sixth Japanese-American Frontiers of Science Symposium	7
● Eighth Science Policy Seminar Held in Hawaii	7
● Events Held in Asian Countries	8
● Recent Visitors to JSPS	10
● JSPS Alumni Associations Launched	11

Outline of FY2004 Budget

The government's budget for fiscal year 2004 was approved by the Cabinet on 24 December 2003, and adopted by the Diet on 19 January 2004. The following is an outline of JSPS's funding allocation in that budget, which is divided into the following two categories:

- Funds allocated to JSPS directly from the government and other sources
- Funds provided in MEXT's budget for programs performed by JSPS

Funding received directly by JSPS falls under the following categories:

1. JSPS's operations and programs	¥29.8 billion [\$271 million]	
2. Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	¥88.4 billion [\$804 million]	
3. 21 st Century COE Program	¥200 million [\$1.8 million]	
4. Donations and other revenues	¥500 million [\$4.5 million]	(\$1=¥110)

In addition of this direct funding of ¥118.9 billion [\$1.1 billion], funding is provided in MEXT's budget for the following three programs in which JSPS performs selection and evaluation functions.

1. Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research
2. 21st Century COE Program
3. Research for the Future Program

This indirect funding adds up to ¥79.6 billion [\$724 million].

Including direct and indirect funding, JSPS's FY 2004 budget totals ¥198.5 billion [\$1.8 billion]. This figure constitutes a 3.9 % increase over JSPS's FY 2003 budget.

I. Direct Funding

The following is a description of *JSPS's operation and programs* that receive direct funding in the budget. The specific amount of funds allocated to each program will not be decided until the start of the next fiscal year (April 2004).

(1) Research Fellowships for Young Scientists

These fellowships are awarded to outstanding young researchers to allow them to concentrate on their work, without concern about living expenses, at a career stage when their research ability is at its sharpest. Offered in three categories, Doctor Course Students (DC), Postdoctoral Fellows (PD), and excellent Postdoctoral Fellows (SPD), these fellowships have tenures from 2-3 years. In FY 2004, about 1,600 fellowships will be awarded in the three categories combined. For a more detailed description of this fellowship program, please see the article on page 4.

(2) International scientific cooperation programs

In FY 2004, JSPS will both enhance and expand its international exchange programs. With an upsurge of large-scale advanced research projects, international collaboration is shifting from a bilateral to a multilateral axis. Given this trend, JSPS will increase the number of projects conducted under its new Core-to-Core Program. Concurrently, programs heretofore implemented by MEXT will be transferred to JSPS during the fiscal year. These include the convening of international symposiums, the dispatch of researchers to international scientific conferences held abroad, and the invitation of foreign professors to Japan.

(3) Research Center for Science Systems

In FY 2003, JSPS established the Research Center for Science Systems, which employs experienced researchers as program officers who participate in the planning of JSPS's programs. In its first year, the Center employed eight senior program officers, one in each of its research categories, and installed 40 program officers. As the Center expands its operation in FY 2004, the number of senior program officers will be increased to 16, and program officers to 88.

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

These are competitive funds used to advance excellent research activities across the spectrum of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, particularly those that can contribute to the advancement of scientific research in Japan. These grants are divided into a number of categories based on the objective and nature of the subject research. JSPS performs the whole gamut of functions (e.g., application screening, project evaluation and grant distribution) for this program. Direct funding earmarked for this program in FY 2004 is ¥88.4 billion [\$804 million].

II. Indirect Funding

The following is a description of the programs supported by indirect funding allocated in MEXT's budget.

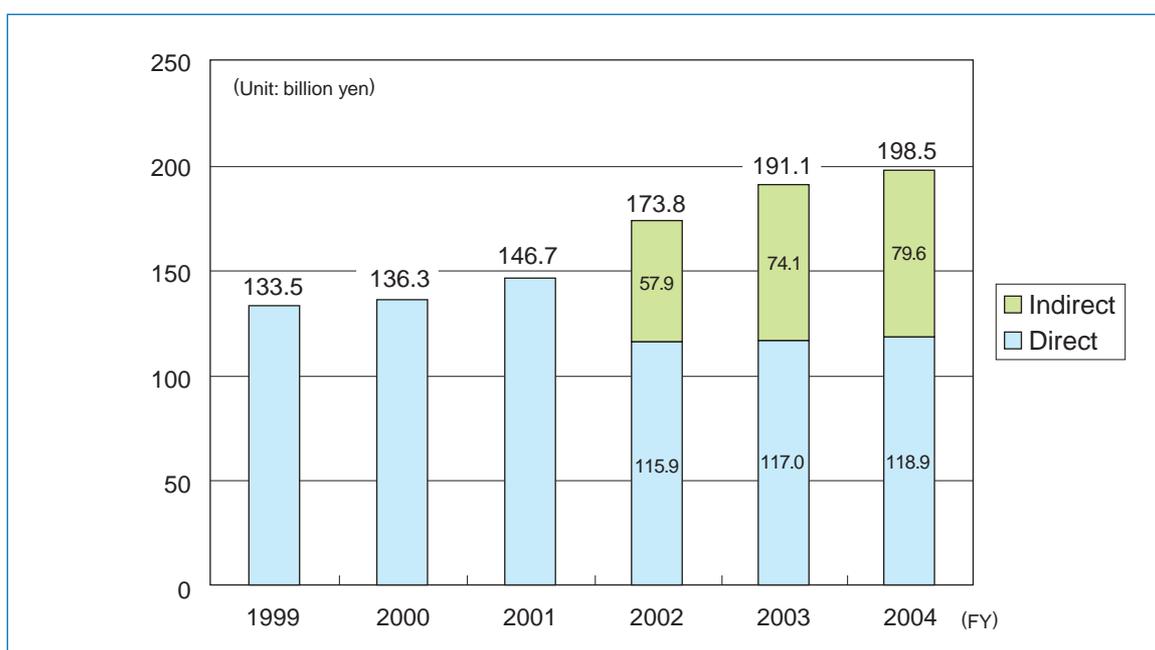
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

In addition to the above-described direct funding, indirect funding in the amount of ¥39.5 billion [\$359 million] is earmarked for this program in FY 2004. These funds cover some grant categories for which JSPS performs the selections and evaluations, but MEXT distributes the grants. (For reference, the total FY 2004 MEXT/JSPS budget for this program is 183.0 billion [\$1.7 billion].)

21st Century COE Program

This grant program gives prioritized support to the establishment within Japanese universities of research and education hubs of the world's highest level and to the fostering of excellent researchers capable of elevating the standard of research in Japan. In the first two years of this program, which began in FY 2002 with ten categories of supported research, grants were made to 85 universities to create a total of 246 centers of excellence. As the program contributes significantly to the university reform process in Japan, funding in FY 2004 will be provided for projects in and beyond the original ten categories, in the aggregate amount of ¥36.5 billion [\$332 million]. As with the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program, JSPS performs all project selections and evaluations under this program, whereas MEXT distributes the grants.

JSPS Budget Allocation 1999-2004



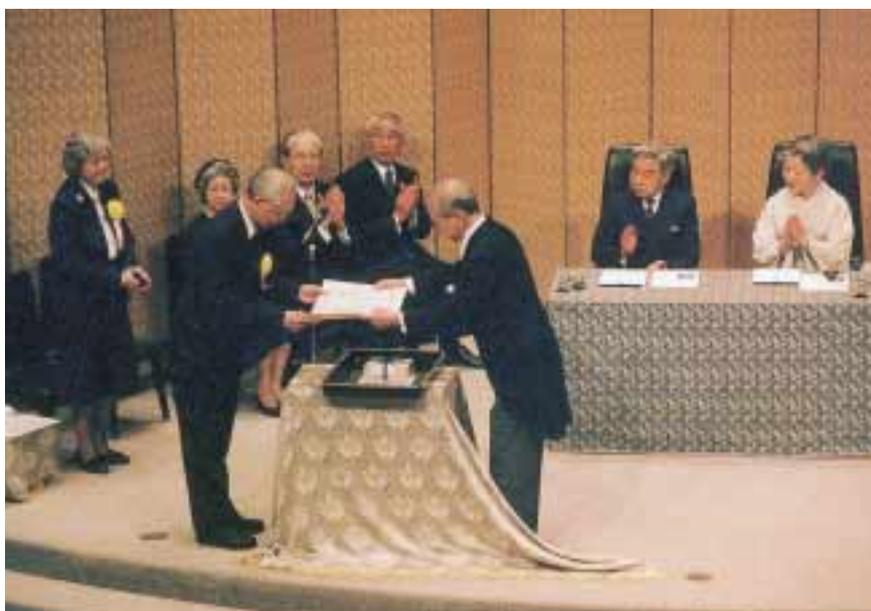
Presentation Ceremony Held for 2003 International Prize for Biology

On 1 December, the 19th 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. Shinya Inoué, distinguished scientist, director, Architectural Dynamics in Living Cells Program, Marine Biological

Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA. A message was then delivered by His Majesty, followed by congratulatory remarks from the Prime Minister (read by Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and from Mr. Takeo Kawamura, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The ceremony concluded with an acceptance address from Dr. Inoué.

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



Dr. Inoué receives Prize in presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress

Research Fellowships for Young Scientists

Background

This fellowship program is designed to foster the highly creative, young scientists who will shoulder the future of scientific research in Japan. Fellowships are awarded to outstanding young Japanese researchers who wish to concentrate on their work at a university or other

research institution. It allows them to devote themselves to their research without having to be concerned about living expenses.

The Japanese government's first S&T Basic Plan, adopted by the Cabinet in 1996, called for an initiative that had as its goal support for 10,000 young Japanese

postdoctoral researchers. This goal was met in FY 1999.

As the pivotal organization in carrying out this initiative, JSPS currently supports 4,755 young researchers under its Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program, which awards grants in three categories: Doctor Course Students (DC), Postdoctoral Fellows (PD), and excellent Postdoctoral Fellows (SPD). The program has thus accrued a significant record of achievement as a mechanism for supporting postdoctoral researchers.

Since the program's establishment, various steps have been taken to enhance and innovate it. The most recent ones are described below.

Program Innovations

(1) Establishment of SPD Program

In FY 2002, the SPD Program was initiated to support particularly exceptional researchers. Its aim is to foster and secure the best and brightest young researchers who possess the ability to conduct research of the world's highest standard.

(2) Improvement in researcher mobility

To create a wide working environment conducive to nurturing and expanding young fellows' research capacity, it is necessary to allow them to make their own selections of research groups and institutions. For this reason, research venues under the fellowship program were expanded in FY 2002 to include national laboratories and other research organizations, no longer restricting them to universities and affiliated research institutes.

For young researchers to move on soon after obtaining

their PhDs to other groups and institutions, choosing from a variety of research environments, is valuable in enhancing their research skills and abilities. At the same time, research at the receiving institution is energized by admitting young researchers with differing backgrounds and experiences. Under the SPD Program, therefore, fellows are required to perform their postdoctoral research at a university or institution other than the one where they conducted their doctoral studies. Under the PD Program, fellows have from FY 2003 been required to join a different research group than that in which they did their postgraduate work.

(3) Support for overseas research activities

For researchers to accumulate overseas experience is vital both to advancing world-level research and fostering outstanding expertise. From this perspective, both SPD and PD research fellows will from FY 2004 be encouraged to conduct research activities (e.g., fieldwork, data/document collection, research presentations) at overseas institutions during the course of their tenures.

Recently, some 400 postdoctoral fellows have each year made overseas research visits of one month or longer. These numbers are expected to increase.

FY 2004 Recruitment and Selections

Under the FY 2004 recruitment for the Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program, 12,147 applications have been received: 4,718 from postdoctoral researchers and 7,429 from doctoral students. Through a two-step process (document review and interviews), some 1,600 applicants are scheduled to be selected for the program.

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.

Postgenome Forum Hosted by Strasbourg Office

On 28 November 2003, a Science Forum sponsored by JSPS's Strasbourg Office was held on the theme "Postgenome." Across-the-board cooperation in convening the forum was provided by Université Louis Pasteur which furnished the venue: Centre Culturel Saint Thomas, an eloquent facility that was once an old monastery. Support was also given by Ministère délégué à la Recherche et aux Nouvelles Technologies (French Minister for Research and New Technologies), Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin, and Maison Universitaire France-Japon.

The first being in FY 2002, this was the second Science Forum to be held by the Strasbourg Office. The opening ceremony, presided over by Dr. Yoichi Nakatani, director of the Strasbourg Office, featured addresses by Prof. Richard Kleinschmager, vice president of Université Louis Pasteur, Mr. Hidekazu Yamaguchi, consul general of Japan in Strasbourg, Ms Sophie Rohfritsch (representing the mayor of Strasbourg), vice president of Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg, and Mr. Philippe Richert, president of Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin. Prof. Motoyuki Ono, president of JSPS, welcomed and thanked the lecturers, participants, and representatives of the collaborating organizations.

At the forum, four pairs of French-Japanese researchers (all under 40 years of age and with excellent records of research achievement) each presented two different research approaches to their assigned sub-themes. In addition to these sessions, a poster session was also held.

The four pair presentations were carried out on the following sub-themes:

Pair 1: Genome Exploration

- Dr. Hidemi Watanabe, Nara Institute of Science and Technology: "Reconstruction of ancestral genomes"
- Dr. Frédéric Devaux, École Normale Supérieure: "Transcriptome analyses and drug resistance in yeast"

Pair 2: Structural and Functional Relations in

Post-Transcriptional Events

- Dr. Jérôme Cavaille, Université Paul Sabatier: "Imprinted C/D snoRNA and microRNA genes"
- Dr. Osamu Nureki, Tokyo Institute of Technology: "Structural genomics of genetic code translation systems"

Pair 3: Bioinformatics

- Dr. Tetsuro Toyoda, The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN): "Bioinformatics bridging genome to phenome"
- Dr. Hiroyuki Ogata, Université de la Méditerranée: "Rickettsia and Tropheryma: Lessons from small parasitic bacterial genomes"

Pair 4: Neurosciences

- Dr. Mariko Miyata, National Institute for Physiological Sciences: "Phospholipase C β 4 mediated signal in synaptic and brain functions"



Prof. Ono delivers remarks

- Dr. Laurent Cohen, Hôpital de la Salpêtrière: "Functional and anatomical mechanisms of reading disorders"

A Q&A session chaired by an eminent researcher was held for each presentation; they gave rise to vigorous interaction between the speakers and participants as well as praise for the exceptionally high level of the research presented.

In the interval between the morning and afternoon presentation sessions, a poster session was held following lunch. Standing in front of the 41 posters recruited on postgenome-related fields, young researchers from Japan and France engaged in free and open discussions of leading-edge topics.

Yet another feature of the forum was a presentation by Ms Yuriko Seki, deputy director of the Strasbourg Office, on JSPS's recently launched "Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers" and other international programs. Using the gathering as an ideal opportunity, an announcement was also made that an alumni association of former JSPS fellows has been established in France. (See page 11 for related information.)

With "postgenome" being a topic of top interest around the world, some 200 researchers gathered from Strasbourg, Toulouse and other regions of France as well as from Japan to attend the forum, charging the lecture hall with a spirited atmosphere throughout the event. Eating and acting together engendered a close sense of collegueship among the participating researchers, leading quickly to one pair deciding to initiate a joint research project. This thrust generated by the forum is expected to advance further scientific exchange between Japanese and French researchers in postgenome fields.

The proceedings of the forum were broadcast worldwide in real time over the Internet site Canal-U, and are archived on the site for viewing at any time. (See <http://www.canal-u.fr/>)

Sixth Japanese-American Frontiers of Science Symposium Held in Japan

From 8-10 December 2003, the sixth annual Japanese-American Frontiers of Science (JAFoS) Symposium was held at Shonan Village Center under the auspices of JSPS and the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Projecting future scientific vistas, JAFoS brings young and energetic researchers from the two countries together to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions of leading-edge topics. The symposium, thus, contributes to the pioneering of new academic disciplines, while giving the participants an opportunity to rethink the parameters of their own fields of specialization. Ultimately, its aim is to foster young researchers with keen international perspectives.

Each year, a planning committee, whose members are appointed by JSPS and NAS, decides the topics to be addressed in the symposium's eight sessions and its overall implementation framework. In these sessions, presentations are delivered and discussed by the participants themselves. A poster session is also held.

This year's symposium was co-chaired by Prof. Shinji Tsuneyuki, The University of Tokyo, and Prof. Tandy Warnow, The University of Texas at Austin. The eight



Participants in vigorous discussion

session topics were 1) Microorganisms in the Extremes/Microbial Ecology, 2) Biological Function of Sleep, 3) Small Inhibitory RNAs, 4) Neutrino Astronomy, 5) Solid/Fluid Interactions of the Earth, 6) Photonic Crystals, 7) Quantum Computers/Cryptography, and 8) Prediction/Predictability. Of the 69 participants, 39 were nominated by JSPS and 30 by NAS. Each was a young researcher of under 45 years of age, and all participated in the above session discussions. Bringing the perspectives of their varying fields to the interchange, the sessions were invigorated by crossfiring questions and merging ideas.

Also woven into the fabric of these symposiums are lectures by front-running researchers. This time, Dr. Murakami Yoichiro, professor of International Christian University and professor emeritus of The University of Tokyo, delivered a 1-hour lecture titled "Two Types of Science We Have," in which he talked about the historical transition of science, its relationship to society, and the role of the scientist. Piquing the interest of the young scientists, his remarks drew a volley of probing questions from them.

The impression was voiced by many of the participants that the symposium was unique in the way it fostered intersecting dialogue on the content of leading scientific topics between researchers specializing in natural sciences and in social sciences. Some said that, while losing their bearings in the alien nature of the some questions and responses generated in the cross-discussion, joining the symposium was meaningful as it gave the participants a chance to stimulate each other, spurring greater interest and understanding of fields besides their own. All in all, the symposium concluded with its objectives successfully achieved.

Eighth Science Policy Seminar Held in Hawaii

On 14-16 December 2003, the eighth in the series of Science Policy Seminars was held at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The theme of this round was "Science, Society, and the Internet."

JSPS has been carrying out this seminar series with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) since the first one held in 1980. This time, the seminar was merged with the Science Dialogue Seminar held between NSF and NSFC (National Natural Science Foundation of China) every year since 1999, expanding its platform to a trilateral

event. Some 30 researchers from the three countries gave presentations and held discussions on three session topics: 1) Scientific Collaboration via the Internet, 2) Access and Fair Use Issues, and 3) Societal Aspects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). As the participants hailed from diverse fields of specialization, an animated dialogue was advanced from various intersecting perspectives on the Internet: its technological development, influence on society, user ethics, and applications in education. Such fruitful interaction colored the seminars highly successful conclusion.

Events Held in Asian Countries

First Asian HORCs Meeting Held in Tokyo

The heads of research funding bodies from Japan, China and Korea met together on 6 November 2003. Prof. Motoyuki Ono, president of JSPS, invited Prof. Jia'er Chen, president of NSFC (National Natural Science Foundation of China), and Dr. Chung-Duk Kim, chairman of KOSEF (Korea Science and Engineering Foundation), to Tokyo to hold a trilateral discussion on promoting closer collaboration among Asian countries. This constituted the first meeting of Asian HORCs (Heads of Research Councils).

The three Heads (Dr. Chung-Duk Kim, Prof. Motoyuki Ono and Prof. Jia'er Chen) engaged in friendly discussion



Former RONPAKU Fellows' Achievements Celebrated in Thailand

An award ceremony, hosted by JSPS's Bangkok Office in cooperation with the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), was held on 17 December 2003 to look back on the program's accomplishments and share feedback from RONPAKU graduates.

Twenty-eight Thai RONPAKU Fellows successfully obtained their PhDs from Japanese universities during the 2000-2002 period. In this ceremony, held at the Inter-Continental Hotel Bangkok, 19 of them were presented RONPAKU medals by Dr. Toshiomi Yoshida, director of JSPS's Bangkok Office. They were lauded by JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono's message, and also by

NRCT deputy secretary-general Mr. Chobvit Lubpairee's remarks. On behalf of the graduates, a special address titled "From RONPAKU to National Excellent Research" was given by Dr. Sunee Mallikamarl, associate professor of Chulalongkorn University, who received the "2003 Excellent Research Award" from NRCT.

As of the 2002 fiscal year, 388 researchers had obtained their dissertation PhD degrees under this program, among whom 144 are Thai researchers. Thailand still tops the list of RONPAKU graduates, followed by Indonesia (Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture (DGHE)) with 75.



Medal recipients with NRCT and JSPS staffs

Asia Academic Seminar on Biophysics Held in Bangalore

A seminar titled “JSPS-DST Asia Academic International Workshop on Single Molecule Biophysics” was held in Bangalore, India under the co-sponsorship of JSPS and DST (Department of Science and Technology) on 4-5 January 2004. Single Molecule Biophysics is a frontier area of research which, though a novel domain pioneered in Japan, is spreading throughout the world. This seminar gave young Asian researchers an opportunity to learn about this new field from a cadre of the world’s leading researchers, who delivered lectures on related

subjects. The ultimate purpose of the seminar was to disseminate knowledge and promote networking that will contribute to the proliferation of research in the area of single molecule biophysics.

Altogether, some 70 researchers, hailing from India, Korea, China and Malaysia among other countries, attended the seminar and formed interpersonal networks among each other.

Core University Program

Osaka University and Hanyang University, Korea Held Symposium

On 10-12 November 2003, a symposium titled “10th Seminar on Core University Program (CUP)” was held under the Core University Program in conjunction with “The 2nd Asian International Symposium on the Science

of Engineering Ceramics.” Over 200 researchers mainly from Japan and Korea attended the symposium, which was held at Mikawa-Heights in Aichi, Japan.

First Joint Seminar on Coastal Oceanography Held in Chiang Mai

Since 2001, the Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, has been conducting a multilateral core university project with Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, R&D Center for Oceanology of LIPI (Indonesian Institute of Sciences), University of the Philippines Diliman, Haiphong Institute of Oceanology in Vietnam, and Malaysia University of Technology. At their first joint seminar held on 14-16 December 2003, the results of exchanges carried out under the project over the past three years were reported and discussed through both oral presentations and poster sessions.



Kyoto University and University of Malaya, Malaysia Held Comprehensive Seminar in Kyoto

On 15-17 December 2003, a comprehensive seminar entitled “Construction and Creation of Sustainable Society Based on Zero-Discharge Concept” was held by the two

universities, which have been carrying out a core university project on environmental science since 2000.

Recent Visitors to JSPS (November 2003-January 2004)

Delegation from Chinese Ministry of Education

A delegation from the Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China (MOE), headed by Ms Zhang Xiuqin, deputy director-general of Department of International Cooperation and Exchange, visited JSPS on 19 November to exchange ideas on scientific relations between the two countries. Mr. Xue Yanqing, director of Asia and African Affairs Division, and Mr. Wu Jinsong, deputy director of the Division, also attended the meeting.

JSPS and MOE are currently operating two core university projects. MOE expressed high praise for the collaboration between researchers from the two countries in

those projects, and proposed holding a bilateral meeting to monitor their progress. JSPS agreed to this idea.



Members of MOE delegation and JSPS staff

French Minister Claudie Haigneré

On 8 December 2003, a delegation of French government officials paid a courtesy visit to JSPS. They were headed by Ms Claudie Haigneré, French Minister for Research and New Technologies, and included Mr. Bernard de Montferrand, Ambassador, French Embassy in Japan. A discussion with them was held by JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, executive director Mr. Koji Nakanishi, and the heads of divisions in JSPS's International Program Department. They introduced JSPS's various international exchange programs and discussed ideas with the delegation to further promote Franco-Japanese ex-

change across a spectrum of fields from basic research to applied science.



French Minister Claudie Haigneré (in the middle)

Events

San Francisco Office

JSPS/CJS Joint Colloquium "Transformation of Experience: Interpreting the 'Opening' of Japan"
University of California, Berkeley Alumni House, 19 March 2004

Stockholm Office

NAJS/JSPS Colloquium "What to Analyze about Contemporary Japanese Society"
Göteborg University, 21-22 April 2004

Colloquium "RNA Biology"
Uppsala University, 15 June 2004

Bonn Office

Symposium "Nanoscience"
Halle, 14-15 May 2004

London Office

The 10th Anniversary Ceremony of JSPS London Office
The Royal Society, London, 4 June 2004

The First Annual General Assembly of UK JSPS Alumni Association
The Royal Society, London, 4 June 2004

Symposium "Governing University Research: Historical and Comparative Perspectives"
The University of Glasgow, 9-11 September 2004

Washington Office

The 9th Science in Japan Forum
Cosmos Club, Washington DC, 11 June 2004

Recruitments

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (Short-term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 12-16 April 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 \$550] 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 \$15] plus delivery. For details, ask Maruzen bookstore: fax +81-3-3272-0693 or email e-shop@maruzen.co.jp



Launch of JSPS Alumni Associations

Former JSPS fellows in the UK and France are taking active steps to launch alumni associations in their respective countries. These articles describe such activities afoot in London and Strasbourg.

London

On 21 November 2003, four former fellows, who will comprise the alumni association's executive, and staff of the JSPS's London Office met at University College London to discuss the association's prospective activities, organization, and articles.

As a result, the first general assembly of the association's members will be held along with the 10th anniversary celebration of the London Office on 4 June of this year. To this end, another preparatory meeting will be held in March.

The London Office looks to see the new alumni association giving young UK researchers an opportunity to come into contact with researchers who have experienced research in Japan. It looks forward to the association providing information and opportunities to exchange views on the research and living environment in Japan, while stimulating interest in many UK researchers to go to Japan. By also inviting the active participation of Japanese researchers in alumni-organized events, expectations are that networks can be strengthened between British and Japanese researchers.

The following former JSPS fellows are the prospective officers of the alumni association:

- **Chair: Prof. Peter Sammonds**, Department of Earth Sciences, University College London (1991-1992 Postdoctoral Fellow at Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo)
- **Vice Chair: Dr. Martyn Kingsbury**, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College School of Medicine (1990-1991 Postdoctoral Fellow at Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University)
- **Treasurer: Dr. Hugo Dobson**, School of East Asian Studies, The University of Sheffield (1999-2001 Postdoctoral Fellow at Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo)
- **Secretary: Dr. Darren Bagnall**, Department of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton (1996-1997 Postdoctoral Fellow at Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University)



At the first preparatory meeting

Strasbourg

On 28 November 2003, the JSPS alumni association in France proudly announced its establishment before an audience of some 200 people attending a science forum on "Postgenome." The stated purpose of the association is to support researchers who conduct exchanges between Japan and France, including offering advice to researchers preparing to go to Japan.



Alumni executive and JSPS staff

At the forum, the newly appointed chair of the alumni association, Prof. Marie-Claire Lett of Université Louis Pasteur, explained the purpose of the association and its program policy, after which she introduced the other members of the executive who will lead the association's activities in various region of France. JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, who attended the science forum, expressed his delight over the establishment of the alumni association and his expectations for its future activities. In a conversation with the executives, he conveyed words of encouragement for their future efforts.

In Strasbourg, the Law of Alsace, established in 1908 when Germany controlled the region, still remains in effect, requiring seven founding members (versus two under French law) to establish an association. To register the association, this roster along with its articles of association must be submitted to the court for approval. As

soon as the approval is handed down, the association's letterhead will be used to officially inform former JSPS fellows throughout France of the association's authorized activities, executive members, and charter.

The members of the association's executive are as follows:

- **Prof. Marie-Claire Lett**, ULP, Strasbourg (1987-1988 Postdoctoral Fellow at The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo)
- **Prof. Alain Milon**, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (1986-1987 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo)
- **Dr. Reiko Oda**, Institut Européen de Chimie et Biologie, CNRS, Bordeaux (1995-1996 Postdoctoral

Fellow at Laboratoire de Dynamique des Fluides Complexes, Université Louis Pasteur)

- **Dr. Eric Oswald**, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Toulouse (2001 Invitation Fellow at the Faculty of Dentistry, Hiroshima University)
- **Dr. Robert Pansu**, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan, CNRS, Paris (1988-1989 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki National Research Institutes)
- **Prof. Jacques Streith**, Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse (1989 Invitation Fellow at the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University)

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.

● **JSPS Fellows Plaza**

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

● **JSPS Washington Office**

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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.