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JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Quarterly



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Research Center for Science Systems on Fast Track

The Research Center for Science Systems, which was set up in 2003 within JSPS, has made great progress both quantitatively and qualitatively in its second year of operation.

Dr. Tasuku Honjo, director of the Department of Medical Chemistry, Kyoto University, has been newly appointed as director of the Center, succeeding Dr. Ryoji Noyori who resigned to assume the post of president of The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN). A new deputy director has also been appointed: Dr. Hiroaki Yanagida, professor emeritus, The University of Tokyo, will serve alongside the present deputy director, Dr. Shiro Ishii, professor emeritus, The University of Tokyo. Both of the new incumbents are top researchers in their respective fields. Their adroit leadership in scientific policy and program management is eagerly anticipated.

The number of program officers retained by the Center has been doubled. Senior program officers have been increased from 8 to 16, and program officers from 40 to 86, each of whom is assigned to one of the eight academic groups listed below. Each group consists of two senior program officers and several program officers.

- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Engineering Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Agricultural Sciences
- Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Sciences

In all, the total number of academics staffing the Center is now 105, more than twice of the previous year's 50.

The director and deputy directors administer the Center's programs and research staff. Senior program officers coordinate their respective research groups. Under the new framework, Senior Program Officer Meetings are held to deliberate ways to promote science, consider advice to be provided on JSPS programs, coordinate cross-group activities, and plan the implementation of the Center's research and other programs. These meetings are attended by the director, deputy directors, and senior program officers. They will be held at an increased



Dr. Tasuku Honjo



Dr. Hiroaki Yanagida

frequency of about twice a month (vis-à-vis once a month in the past).

From FY 2004, information on the matters discussed at the Senior Program Officer Meetings is being shared with the program officers. Matters pertaining to each research group are examined, with the views of the group's researchers ascertained and compiled. So as to reflect the results of such examinations in JSPS's programs, a meeting of the research groups is being held on a timetable of roughly once a month.

Another improvement in the Center's operation is that half of the senior program officers now come to the office twice a week for regular consultations, whereas they came on an irregular basis in FY 2003. Plans are to vigorously expand the Center's functions in FY 2004. By attending their respective meetings, the Center's researchers should gain a deeper commitment to JSPS program planning, especially as they find that their participation enables them to play a key role in program management. The researchers are also being encouraged to explore ways of improving JSPS's research-funding systems. In this regard as well, their contributions are eagerly anticipated.

Japan's Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) has mandated that "Funding agencies employ a program officer (PO) system." Such a system is defined as one in which researchers play a key role in the management of government-funded programs, e.g., in their planning, selection, evaluation, and follow-up functions. The Research Center for Science Systems constitutes JSPS's PO system.

New Officers Take Posts

On 1 April, JSPS appointed two new inspector generals at its headquarters in Tokyo and a new director at its office in Stockholm.

The new inspector generals are Dr. Hirochika Inoue, former professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo (Doctor of Engineering), and Dr. Tsuneo Nakahara, advisor, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. (Doctor of Engineering), who will serve in a part-time capacity. Both will be responsible for auditing JSPS operations and finances from the viewpoint of its new status as an "independent administrative institution." They will also provide appropriate recommendations and advice to JSPS's executive on improving operations.

After receiving his doctorate from Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo in 1970, Dr. Inoue joined the Robotics Group in MITI's Electrotechnical Laboratory. In 1978, he became an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Tokyo. In 1984, he was promoted to full professor. During that period, Dr. Inoue earned wide acclaim as a pioneer in the field of intelligent robotics and as a leader in international research initiatives. In 1992, he was elected as the president, Robotics and Mechatronics Division, The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers; and in 1995, president, International Foundation of Robotics Research, in which position he served for six years. Dr. Inoue's career is distinguished by his contributions to the field of robotics.



Dr. Hirochika Inoue

Dr. Nakahara graduated from Faculty of Engineering, The University of Tokyo in 1953, and entered Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. in April of that year. In 1961, he obtained his doctorate from The University of Tokyo. Thereafter, he held the successive posts of executive vice president and vice chairman, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.; then, became its advisor in 2002.



Dr. Tsuneo Nakahara

During that period, Dr. Nakahara served as an elected member of the 12th Science Council of Japan from 1981-5; chairman, International Science Club of Osaka from 1994; IEEE Secretary in 1996; IEEE Foundation board member from 2000; and president of New Technology Association from 1999. His leadership within the industrial sector has been instrumental in advancing the fields of electrical engineering and new materials.

Dr. Tsuneko Okazaki, professor, Institute for Comprehensive Medical Science, Fujita Health University, has been appointed as the director of JSPS's office in Stockholm. In 1956, she graduated from the School of Science, Nagoya University. Thereafter, she went on to hold the posts of research assistant, associate professor and, in 1983, professor at the same university. From 1964-5, she conducted research under a JSPS fellowship. She had previously interned in the US. From that experience, she went on to discover discontinuous DNA replication, or what is now known as the "Okazaki Fragment." As a researcher herself, Dr. Okazaki will draw upon her vast experience in promoting scientific exchange between Japan, Sweden and its surrounding countries in northern Europe.



Dr. Tsuneko Okazaki

JSPS Introduces Electronic Application System

In July, JSPS will place a new electronic application system into operation for several of its international cooperative programs. The system allows researchers and staffs of Japanese universities and research institutions to perform online a number of program-related functions. This will reduce the time required to do application screening, selection and results notification, increasing the efficiency of program processing.

At present, applications can be submitted using the new electronic system under the following programs: SA-KURA Program, joint research projects and scientific seminars under JSPS's bilateral programs, and Japan-US Cooperation in Cancer Research Program. In the future,



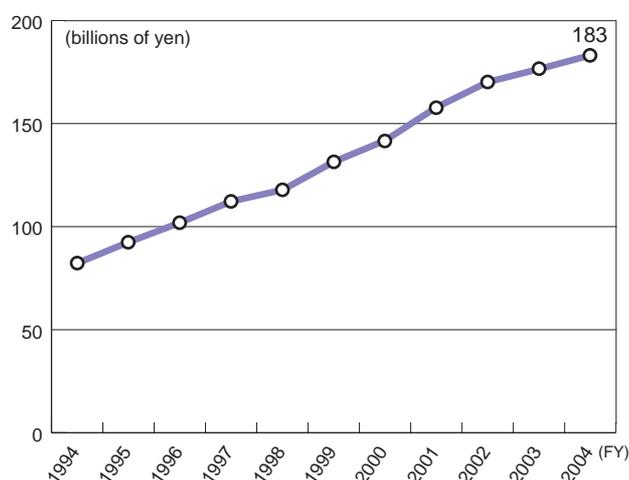
Top page of Japanese system instructions

the system will be phased in and expanded to cover other grant programs.

Funding Increases under Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, competitive funds awarded by the government, constitute about 5% of the government's total S&T budget, and some 50% of competitive funding in Japan. Aggregate funding under Grants-in-Aids has been steadily increased. The total amount of all the government's competitive grants in FY 2004 is ¥360 billion, among which ¥183 billion take the form of Grants-in-Aid.

Upward Trend in Grants-in-Aid Funding



Each year, over 70,000 new applications are received for these grants. Approximately 20% of them are selected through document and panel reviews, the conducting of which involves 4,500 examiners. In FY 2004, 77,000 proposals were received, of which about 19,000 were adopted.

Recent improvements in program procedures

Grants-in-Aid are the key means of funding scientific

research in Japan. They cover all fields from basic to applied research and a full spectrum of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. A number of enhancements have been made to the program to make it easier for researchers to utilize. They are as follows:

- Program officers of the Research Center for Science Systems, newly established within JSPS, are tasked to manage the examiner nomination process and review committee operations. This enables them, as scientists themselves, to be deeper involved in the conduct of JSPS's grant programs, while reflecting the views of the scientific community in the design and implementation of those programs.
- Plans are to partially introduce an online application and screening system in FY 2004. It will benefit researchers by reducing their paperwork burden when filing applications, while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the review process.
- In FY 2003, the program was modified to permit, under certain conditions, funds not used in one fiscal year to be carried over to the next. As researchers could not previously do this, many hoped to see more flexibility added to the system.
- A new policy was put in place in FY 2003 to allow researchers who need to suspend their funded work for one year to raise an infant to reinstate the grant in the following year.

In addition to the above enhancements, efforts are being redoubled to support the creation of an optimal environment for outstanding researchers to pursue their work.

Grant Project Format and Flow

Under the Grants-in-Aid Program, individual researchers and groups of researchers at Japanese research institutions prepare research proposals based on their own free ideas. Selections from among those submitted are made based on peer reviews, with successful proposals receiving

research grants.

Within the program, a number of grant categories have been established based on the objective and nature of the subject research. For each category, a division of labor is established in selection, distribution and other functions between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

(MEXT) and JSPS. For more information on the grant categories and the respective roles of MEXT and JSPS, please see our website. (<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants01.html>)

Proposals are solicited in September and accepted in November, with grant distributions made once a year.

Selection of grants-in-aid recipients is carried out through a two-tier screening process: The first is a document review conducted by three to six examiners who review each proposal from the perspective of specialists in the subject field. The second is a panel review conducted by other members of the selection committee.

Notification of the selection results is made to each research institution. When notifying applicants of their screening results, a card is sent to those who were unsuccessful informing them of their approximate ranking among all the applicants and their average evaluation score in the document

review.

Among the categories for which JSPS makes grant distributions, titles and abstracts of projects selected last year under the Category "S" of the "Scientific Research" Grant are posted on our website. (<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants07.html>)

On their research results, the grantees submit a report to JSPS each fiscal year. This report and a summary of the research results prepared at the conclusion of each project are posted for public access on the database of the National Institute of Informatics. Furthermore, a booklet compiling the research results is submitted, and kept for long-term public use at the National Diet Library.

To promote the open dissemination of outstanding research results, the program also provides funds to cover the publication of scientific journals and the creation of databases.

FY2004 Applications Received for 21st Century Program

The 21st Century COE Program seeks to establish within Japanese universities field-specific research and education bases of the world's highest caliber. Support under it is focused on elevating research standards at the participating universities, while fostering young researchers capable of becoming future leaders in their respective fields. Ultimately, the program works to promote the development of universities with a distinct institutional identity and a strong capacity to compete within the international academic arena.

Transcending the previously established 10 research categories, FY2004 proposals were aimed at creating COEs at the cutting edge of new scientific fields. Altogether, 320 applications have been received from 186 universities. They are currently going through a process of screening and selection.

For this purpose, the 21st Century COE Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Leo Esaki, president, Shibaura Institute of Technology, has been established

within JSPS. Taking as reference the views of referees who are specialists in their respective fields, the committee members screen applications through a first-phase process of document and panel reviews. For applications that advance to the second phase, hearings and consultations are conducted in selecting the awardees. Notices of results are scheduled to be issued to each applying university at the end of June.

In this program, all the funded projects are subjected to an interim evaluation at their 2-year juncture. In FY 2004, there are 113 projects, all of which started in FY 2002, that will be given interim evaluations.

The budget for this program in FY 2004 is ¥36.7 billion, of which ¥3.3 billion is for the new projects solicited in this fiscal year. Grants for the 21st Century COE Program are distributed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to the selected universities.

First Core-to-Core Program "HOPE" Started

JSPS and the Max Planck Society (MPG) celebrated the inauguration of a joint project on evolutionary anthropology on 11 February in Munich. Prof. Motoyuki Ono, president of JSPS, and Prof. Peter Gruss, president of MPG, signed the new memorandum of understanding (MOU) to launch the program at MPG's headquarters.

This new project, called "HOPE" (an acronym for "Primate Origins of Human Evolution"), is implemented by three major institutes: Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University; Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology; and Harvard University.

The project was the first to be launched under the "Core-to-Core Program," JSPS's new flagship initiative for international collaboration with developed countries.

At the ceremony, Prof. Ono said, "I am very pleased that MPG has agreed to join us in the implementation of the Core-to-Core Program, and that we were able to sign the MOU for HOPE today.

"The Core-to-Core Program is a new program which JSPS initiated just this year for the purpose of building and expanding an international framework in leading-edge fields of science among universities and research institutions in Japan and other advanced nations.

"The name of HOPE includes an aspiration to resolve problems that impede harmonious coexistence within the global environment, a theme of universal importance to human beings in the 21st century."

Preceding the signing ceremony, congratulatory remarks were delivered by Mr. Yushu Takashima, Ambassador of Japan in Germany, followed by presentations from the



Signing the MOU

co-chairs of the project: Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University, and Dr. Josep Call, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

They said the two institutes constitute a highly meaningful partnership in that they complement each other in primate species kept, research fields pursued, and research methodologies employed. As its comprehensive, leading-edge approach should help to elucidate the primate origins of human evolution, all recognized both the significance and importance of this project, in which Japanese and German scientists will collaborate in carrying out the core research in cognitive development, ecology, and comparative genomics, while US scientists will participate in the wildlife conservation and animal welfare phases.

The MOU to conduct the HOPE Project was part of a larger agreement made at the August 2003 summit between the Japanese and German heads of state to strengthen scientific exchange between the next generation of researchers from the two countries.

Symposium to Celebrate 30 Years in Cancer Research

On 1-2 March, a large-scale symposium was held in the Natcher Conference Center on the campus of NIH (National Institutes of Health) in Bethesda, Maryland, under the Japan-US Cooperation in Cancer Research Program. Themed "Molecular Cancer Therapeutics," the symposium celebrated 30 years of cooperation in cancer research between JSPS and National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the US. Launched in 1974, the program is implementing its sixth 5-year plan (1999-2003), under which guidelines the symposium was organized.

The event comprised four sessions, the first of which was to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary. In it, Mr. Koji Nakanishi, JSPS executive director, offered opening remarks and Dr. Masaaki Terada, chairman, Food Safety Commission, Cabinet Office of Japanese Government, delivered a commemorative address. The session was followed by a ceremony in which JSPS and NCI representatives cut a birthday cake. The other sessions featured lectures by Dr. Robert Weinberg, Whitehead Institute/MIT, and Dr. Steven Rosenberg, NCI, and some

other 18 distinguished researchers.

At the closing ceremony, Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, the 12th director of NCI, offered remarks and expressed congratulations on the 30-year milestone in the cooperative program's evolution.

Over the two days, more than 150 people attended the symposium, with participation by young researchers being particularly noticeable. A retrospective booklet compiling the program's initiatives and achievements over the period was published and distributed by JSPS.

On the first evening a 30-year commemorative reception was held, in which speeches were given by Dr. Robert W. Miller and by Dr. Yoji Ikawa, The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN). Attending it were Dr.

Tsuyoshi Kakefuda and other Japanese and American researchers who shouldered and energized the program in its early stages.



NCI Director Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach flanked by Japanese and American program staffs

Bangkok Office Holds Bioinformatics Symposium

JSPS's Bangkok office cosponsored with the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) an international symposium entitled "The Forefront of Bioinformatics Application." It was convened on 5 February in the ancient city of Chiangmai.

The symposium was held to explore the possibility of developing new fields on the interface between informa-



On the right, Prof. Hiroshi Yoshikawa;
On the left, Dr. Toshiomi Yoshida, Director of JSPS's Bangkok Office

tion technology (IT) and genome science (GS), which have been undergoing rapid advances within the context of bioinformatics research over recent years. As its participants, the symposium invited leading researchers in the two fields from Japan and Thailand. Whereas Southeast Asia is particularly blessed with abundant bio-resources, it is also plagued with indigenous diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The discussion, therefore, placed weight on the further development and application of bioinformatics research within Asia's tropical zone.

Giving the keynote addresses were Prof. Hiroshi Yoshikawa, advisor, JT Biohistory Research Hall, and Assoc. Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim, deputy director, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Thailand, followed by seven presentations from Japanese and Thai researchers on the scientific significance and societal ramifications of bioinformatics research being conducted in the three areas of industry, medicine and agriculture.

First Colloquium Held by Bonn Office

The Japan-Germany Colloquium 2004 "Quantum Optics" was held on 9-11 February. Cosponsored by JSPS's Bonn Office and Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, the event had as its venue the estate Wildbad Kreuth, nestled in a range of scenic mountains 80 kilometers south of Munich. This was the first colloquium to be sponsored by the Bonn Office, which hopes to hold one annually on a selected theme.

Over the period of the colloquium, the participants lodged together, facilitating close interaction among them. There were 10 lecturers from Japan led by Prof. Yoshihisa Yamamoto, National Institute of Informatics, and 20 from Germany led by Prof. Herbert Walther, Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics. All were young researchers engaged in work at the world's frontier in quantum optics. Over the full 2.5-day colloquium, they

each delivered energetic presentations on their respective topics. Though 30 minutes was allotted to each presentation including Q&A, the response was so enthusiastic from the floor, comprising postdocs and grad students on the German side, that time often ran over. On one hand, this opportunity for outstanding young Japanese and German researchers to meet and engage in in-depth discussions served to expand their own cutting-edge knowledge of the field. On the other, it worked to create bonds and lay cornerstones for future scientific exchange between the two nations.

After the colloquium ended, the German researchers introduced their Japanese colleagues to the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, located in Garching on the

outskirts of Munich. Observations and discussions enjoyed on the tour furthered mutual understanding on the state of the art in the field of quantum optics.



Participants of colloquium

Participation in SUPD Lecture Series

At the invitation of the Stanford University Postdoc Association (SUPD), on 18 February the director of the San Francisco Office gave a short lecture on trends in scientific research in Japan and programs offered by JSPS. SUPD boasts the participation of some 1,400 postdocs from other countries engaged in research at Stanford University. As it holds a seminar series to introduce postdoctoral programs to its members, JSPS was invited to come and describe its fellowship programs.



Lecture delivered by Dr. Seishi Takeda

In his short lecture, Dr. Seishi Takeda spoke on the state of scientific research in Japan with emphasis on internationalization and the fostering of young researchers. As concrete examples, he then introduced JSPS's fellowship programs with focus on its Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers. The briefing proved to be very productive, as the some 50 participants hailing from various countries asked volleys of questions particularly with regard to JSPS's fellowship programs.

By continuing to hold such briefings, the San Francisco Office will make a wide appeal to young researchers from the US and other countries to take advantage of JSPS's program offerings. In particular, the office will solicit applications for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers. In this way, the office works to invigorate international exchange among researchers via their participation in JSPS programs.

Science Colloquium Hosted by San Francisco Office

JSPS's San Francisco Office held its first science colloquium, this time on the theme "Transformation of Experience: Interpreting the 'Opening' of Japan." The venue was the Alumni House on the UC Berkeley Campus and the date, 19 March.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between the US and Japan. Celebrating this occasion, researchers from both Japan and the US considered the various impacts that the opening of Japan had on the life of the Japanese people. Appropriately, the event was held in cooperation

with the Center for Japanese Studies, UCB.

JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono opened the colloquium with welcoming remarks: "The JSPS San Francisco Office will, with this first colloquium as a stepping stone, endeavor to work even harder for the further development of scientific exchange between our two countries in every field of academic research."

The Japanese lecturers expounded on "transformations of experience," including modern thought, time management, physical culture, and education. The three US

researchers addressed the opening's effect on science, gender and theology in Japan. These presentations were followed by a panel discussion, including an exchange of views from the floor, on the theme "KAIKOKU in Comparative and Contemporary Perspective."

More than 100 UCB researchers and students and other academics from the Bay Area attended the event. Through its process of considering "transformations of experience," the colloquium was very meaningful in that it provided a platform for researchers to present unique work being conducted in the two countries on such subjects as the history of science and philosophy.



Hall packed with participants

Stockholm Office Holds Fourth Colloquium

Over the 2-day period of 21-22 April, a colloquium, co-sponsored by JSPS's Stockholm Office and the Nordic Association for the Study of Contemporary Japanese Society (NAJS), was held on the campus of Göteborg University. Entitled "Colloquium on the Study of Contemporary Japanese Society," this was the fourth in a series held by the Stockholm Office since FY 2002. The purpose of these meetings is to foster closer exchange between young researchers, in their thirties to early forties, specializing in Japanese society.

Spanning the first day, a brainstorming session was held. It began with remarks by Dr. Tsuneko Okazaki, director, Stockholm Office; Dr. Margareta Wallin Peterson, pro-vice-chancellor, Göteborg University; and Dr. Linus Hagström, NAJS Steering Committee, followed by presentations from each of the 11 participants on their current research work and subjects of interest for future investigations.



Open panel discussion

Following the presentations, energetic discussions of one hour each were held on three topics: (1) Research environments, particularly in the social science, of Japan and Northern Europe; (2) common research themes; and (3) possibilities for future collaboration.

On the second day, a 2-hour panel discussion, open to the public, was held on the theme "Does Japan Matter?" Giving a synopsis of the previous day's discussion, the panel members elaborated their views in advancing a discourse on research themes of interest in analyzing and understanding the intricacies of contemporary Japanese society.

The colloquium gave an opportunity to Scandinavian social scientists, who are building a network in the region on the common theme "contemporary Japanese society studies," to engage with Japanese colleagues in a candid exchange of views, one that enhanced mutual understanding while fostering potential for collaboration across a broad swath of related fields.

In the wake of this colloquium, NAJS held another 2-day conference with an even larger body of participants. It is expected that this series of meetings will provide impetus for network building between Japanese and Northern European researchers in the field of contemporary Japanese society.

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.

Series: Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow (1)

Dr. Robert A. Goehlich is conducting research in Japan as a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow. [www.robert-goehlich.de] In 2003, he obtained his doctorate in aerospace engineering from Technical University Berlin in Germany. From August of that year, he began conducting research under the fellowship at Ohkami Laboratory, Department of System Design Engineering, Keio University. He had met his host, Prof. Yoshiaki Ohkami, at a symposium on space-flight in France the previous year.

Dr. Goehlich is engaged in research entitled "Designing a Passenger Space Transportation System from a Cost Engineering Approach." At the same time, he has given what he says to be a first-in-the-world lecture series on "Space Tourism," which has been made the subject of a credited course offered at the university. His intent is not just to give technically oriented lectures for students in the field of space science, but also to use the novel topic of space tourism to arouse interest in space science among students of other fields as well. That is, he wants to breathe new energy into space science research in Japan. The lectures he gives at Keio University are also attended by students from other universities in the Tokyo vicinity. They attract master's and doctoral students whose majors range from aerospace engineering, physics and computer science to economics and art.

We took the opportunity of this interview to ask Dr. Goehlich about his impressions on doing research and living in Japan.

What do you think about the research environment in Japan?

Dr. Goehlich: Though my experience is limited to my host university, it appears that Japanese universities are open to new ideas. My lecture on space tourism is one example: Though unique in contrast to previous courses offered at



Dr. Robert A. Goehlich and participants

the university, a course on space tourism was established only two months after my arrival in Japan. I must admit, however, that this might be an exceptional case. Though not limited to the research environment per se, I must say I like the very solicitous and friendly behavior of the Japanese. On the other hand, what puzzles me somewhat is the way Japanese treat problems by not discussing them until a solution is found, which seems to be fine for both parties.

What do you do outside your research work?

Dr. Goehlich: In my free time, I practice karate and play tennis. On the weekends, I go on trips with my colleagues at the lab, or I participate in events sponsored by the German Embassy, Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and other international exchange organizations. Also, three times a week, I go to school to study Japanese.

Do you have a message for young researchers who have not yet done research in Japan?

Dr. Goehlich: In Japan, including at my lab, I have found a new environment, one in which I can draw inspiration from my Japanese colleagues. It's my belief that when one is young, more fruits can be gained from doing research with a team than is possible by working alone. Given the importance it places on cooperation among team members, Japan provides an ideal research environment from this perspective.

Events

London Office

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

Stockholm Office

Forum "Frontiers in Life Science"
The Nobel Forum, Stockholm, 13 October 2004

Strasbourg Office

Forum "The Universe: Origin, Evolution, Future"
Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, 19 November 2004

Recruitments

For FY 2004

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

For FY 2005

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (Standard)
JSPS Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short/Long-term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 6-10 September 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

JSPS Alumni Associations

In continuation from the last issue of the newsletter, articles are carried here on the activities of JSPS alumni associations. Covered below are the alumni associations in Sweden and the US. Interested former fellows living in Sweden, the US, the UK, or France, please contact a JSPS office in your respective country about alumni association activities.

Stockholm

On 23 January, the first Swedish alumni meeting was held in Stockholm, attended by 17 former JSPS fellows currently residing in Sweden.

At the meeting, the participants sat in a circle, creating a relaxed mood in which they introduced themselves and exchanged views on future activities of the association, which they decided to name "JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden." They also agreed to hold a general meeting of the Club annually; for all the attending members to act as JSPS contact persons; to put a page entitled "Alumni Club" on the JSPS Stockholm Office's website upon which information regarding the contact persons is to be posted. In turn, the staff of the Stockholm Office said they would publish a newsletter containing information and tidings received from the Club members.

At the reception following the meeting, the members treated their palates to Japanese hors d'oeuvres with nostalgic flavors; and while reminiscing about their experiences in Japan, energetically swapped ideas on future Club initiatives. The reception proved to be an excellent opportunity for the participants to jell as a group while strengthening their ties as friends and colleagues.



First alumni association meeting

Washington, DC / San Francisco

On 13 March, JSPS's Washington Office convened the first preparatory meeting for building an alumni association and network of former JSPS fellows. In the lead up to the meeting, a proposal to establish an alumni association was circulated in the summer of 2003 to former JSPS fellows residing in the US. Concurrently, a recruitment was sent out for volunteers to staff the association. More than 100 former fellows expressed interest in having an alumni association, among whom 34 stated their willingness to volunteer. They participated in the preparatory meeting along with nine members of the staffs of JSPS's Washington and San Francisco Offices.

At the meeting, it was decided that the association should be coast-to-coast in breadth, covering the entire United States. Among its activities, it was agreed that a network of former fellows should be created to disseminate information on JSPS's programs nationwide so as to engender more interest among young American researchers in doing research in Japan. It was also decided

to hold seminars, in which Japanese researchers would be invited to speak, for the purpose of promoting further scientific exchange between American and Japanese colleagues.

At the meeting, the US was divided into five regions, and a representative elected for each. From among them, a chair and vice-chair were also elected.

Shortly after the meeting, the newly elected officials set about enthusiastically to discuss the launching of the association's activities, ways of getting the word around to former fellows, preparations for establishing the association's charter, and the content of the first seminar to be sponsored by the group. The near future promises many energetic and fruitful activities by the new alumni association in the US.

The association's elected officials are as follows:

- **Chair & Representative of Midwest:** Dr. Blanca Chattin-Kacouris
- **Vice-Chair & Representative of Southeast:** Dr. Wael Zatar, West Virginia University Institute of Technology
- **Representative of Northeast:** Dr. Rezwanul Wahid, University of Maryland, Baltimore
- **Representative of Southwest:** Dr. Daniel Weeks, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- **Representative of West:** Dr. Roger M. Jones, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center



Volunteer alumni fellows and JSPS staffs

Recent Visitors to JSPS (February-April 2004)

Delegation from KOSEF

On 3 February, a delegation from the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF), headed by Mr. Young-Dae Min, director general, Bureau of Academic & International Programs, came to JSPS to discuss FY2004 cooperative programs (e.g., core university projects, Asian Science Seminars). Topping the agenda was an A-HORCs meeting coming up between the heads of JSPS, KOSEF and NSFC.



Delegation from VAST

On 11 March, a delegation from the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), headed by Prof. Nguyen Khoa Son, vice president, visited JSPS where an exchange of views was held on ways to promote exchange activities between researchers of the two countries.



Delegation from NSFC

On 7 April, a visit by a delegation from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), headed by Prof. Zhu Dabao, deputy director, Bureau of Planning, was made to learn about JSPS's review system. They also visited MEXT, Japan Science and Technology Agency, The University of Tokyo, and Kyoto University.



For further information on JSPS's organization and programs, please visit our website [www.jsp.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

6 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8471 Tel: +81-3-3263-1872 Fax: +81-3-3234-3700

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

● JSPS Washington Office

Suite 920, 1800 K Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA
Tel: +1-202-659-8190 Fax: +1-202-659-8199
E-mail: webmaster@jpspsusa.org
<http://www.jpspsusa.org/>

● JSPS San Francisco Office

2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 920,
Berkeley, CA 94704, USA
Tel: +1-510-665-1890 Fax: +1-510-665-1891
E-mail: webmaster@jpspsusa-sf.org
<http://www.jpspsusa-sf.org/>

● JSPS Bonn Office

Wissenschaftszentrum, Ahrstr. 58, 53175,
Bonn, GERMANY
Tel: +49-228-375050 Fax: +49-228-9577777
E-mail: jpsps-bonn@t-online.de
<http://www.jpsps-bonn.de/>

● JSPS London Office

12 Berkeley Street, London W1J 8DT, UK
Tel: +44-20-7629-3577 Fax: +44-20-7629-3588
E-mail: enquire@jpsps.org
<http://www.jsp.go.jp/>

● JSPS Stockholm Office

Fogdevreten 2, S-171 77 Stockholm, SWEDEN
Tel: +46-8-5088-4561 Fax: +46-8-31-38-86
E-mail: gakushin2@jpsps-sto.com
<http://www.jpsps-sto.com/>

● JSPS Strasbourg Office

Maison Universitaire France-Japon
42a, avenue de la Forêt-Noire,
67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE
Tel: +33-3-9024-2017 Fax: +33-3-9024-2014
E-mail: jpsps@japon.u-strasbg.fr
<http://jpsps.u-strasbg.fr/>

● JSPS Bangkok Office

113 TWY Office Center, 10th Fl., Serm-mit Tower,
159 Sukhumvit Soi 21,
Bangkok 10110, THAILAND
Tel: +66-2-661-6453 Fax: +66-2-661-6454
E-mail: jpspsb@mozart.inet.co.th
<http://www.inet.co.th/org/jpsps/>

● JSPS Cairo Research Station

9 Al-Kamel Muhammad Street,
Flat No.4, Zamalek, Cairo, EGYPT
Tel & Fax: +20-2-7363752
E-mail: gakushin@xg8.so-net.ne.jp
<http://www014.upp.so-net.ne.jp/jpsps-cairo/>

● JSPS Nairobi Research Station

Chiromo Access Road, Off Riverside Drive,
Nairobi, KENYA
Tel: +254-20-4442424 Fax: +254-20-4442112
E-mail: jpsps1@africaonline.co.ke
<http://www.jpspsnairobi.org/>



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

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