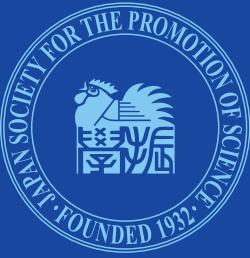


JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



TOPICS

FEATURE: JSPS Prize

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● Feature: JSPS Prize	2
● Messages from JSPS Officers	7
● New Program Started with German Research Foundation	8
● JSPS and NRF Conclude MoU	8
● Frontier Science Conference Held for Young Researchers	9
● Tenth Anniversary of Medical Researcher Exchange with China	9
● Indo-Japan Joint Workshop on Tsunami Research	10
● RONPAKU Meeting Held in Bangkok	10
● Japan-German Colloquium 2005 Held in Dresden	10
● Colloquium Held with Center for Japanese Studies	11
● Recent Visitors to JSPS	11
● JSPS Alumni Associations	12
● Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow	14
● Introducing Japan: Fukuoka	15
● JSPS Science Dialogue	15

FEATURE: JSPS Prize

First Award of JSPS Prize

By Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President, JSPS

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science has to date carried out a wide array of research-support programs, including Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, with a view to advancing science in a manner that respects the autonomy and creativity of the researchers who do the work. In the same vein, this year JSPS newly established the JSPS Prize to acknowledge the special attainments of young researchers.

The JSPS Prize seeks to identify young researchers who are conducting superlative research and to recognize their effort and achievement at an early stage of their careers. In so doing, the Prize is meant to sustain and kindle further the awardees' zest for the work, while supporting their creative, leading-edge research initiatives. In this way, the Prize is expected to help raise the standard of scientific research in Japan to the world's highest level.

The JSPS Prize, which covers all fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, is awarded to researchers who are under 45 years of age, possess a doctoral degree or equivalent expertise, and have an outstanding record of research accomplishments. This is the first such conferment of recognition to be awarded in Japan. It comprises a certificate of merit, a medal, and prize money in the amount of ¥1.1 million. Among the recipients, up to five are also chosen to receive the Japan Academy Medal.

Despite being the program's first call for nominations, 279 were received this year from universities, research institutes and corporations. A preliminary review of the nominees was conducted by JSPS's Research Center for Science



Prince and Princess Akishino speaking with Prof. Ono and Prize recipients

Systems, after which the Prize Selection Committee, comprising 12 leading scientists, selected 25 awardees through a process of extensive deliberation.

I wish to use this space to reiterate my congratulations to the Prize recipients, while committing to make the Prize contribute meaningfully to the advancement of scientific research in Japan.

Messages by Prize Selection Committee Chair Dr. Leo Esaki and Committee Member Dr. Masatoshi Koshiba (both Nobel Prize laureates)

From Dr. Esaki

"The JSPS Prize recipients have excelled in their respective fields, each producing superlative research results rich in originality and creativity. As researchers, they possess the kind of superb attributes that give rise to lofty expectation in their future roles as world leaders. I am convinced that each of the awardees is eminently qualified to receive this first JSPS Prize."

So as to add prestige to the Prize and encourage future candidates, it is my hope that the awardees will devote the same, or an even higher, intensity of zeal to their work and go on to play ever more prominent roles on the international stage. I congratulate the young scholars on their winning this highly competitive award of recognition from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science."

From Dr. Koshiba

"In choosing this year's Prize recipients, the members of the Selection Committee engaged in intensive deliberations that went way beyond the scheduled meeting time. I was delighted to take part in those discussions. Reviewing the work of the nominees reminded me of the early stages of my own career, sparking within me a sense of rejuvenation. Beyond a doubt, the young researchers selected for the Prize possess the outstanding talents and abilities needed to shoulder the future of scientific research in Japan. I shall be truly pleased, but not at all surprised, if among them Nobel Prize winners



Selection committee meeting on 7 January

should emerge. I encourage all the awardees to use the advantages afforded by having won the JSPS Prize to devote themselves to their work so as to make yet another leap in advancing their research on the world stage."

On 22 March, the first ceremony for awarding the JSPS Prize was held in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino at The Japan Academy.

Following the ceremony, a commemorative reception was held amidst a warm atmosphere. Congenial conversation was enjoyed among Their Highnesses, the Prize recipients, their guests, and the distinguished researchers who attended the ceremony. Both the ceremony and reception were carried out in a highly successful manner befitting the first award of the JSPS Prize.



First (FY2004) JSPS Prize Awardees

Humanities and Social Sciences		
Naoya Katsumata	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University	"Comparative Studies on Mediterranean/Middle Eastern Cultures and Literatures from the Perspective of Medieval Hebrew Literature"
Takashi Kurosaki	Associate Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University	"Micro-econometric Research on Economic Development"
Gentaro Taga	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo	"Developmental Brain Research on Mechanism of Human Locomotion and Perception"
Etsuko Taketani	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba	"American Studies Dealing with the Colonialistic Discourses of US Women Writers"
Ikuya Murakami	Senior Research Scientist, NTT Communication Science Laboratories, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation	"Psychophysical Research on Interactions among Visual Modules"
Yasushi Watanabe	Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University	"Ethnographical Studies on the Politics of Culture and Communities in Contemporary America"
Mathematics; Physical Sciences; Chemistry; Engineering Sciences		
Sinya Aoki	Professor, Graduate School of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba	"Research on Particle Physics through Method of Lattice-gauge Theory"
Kazuaki Ishihara	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University	"Development of Artificial Small-molecule Green Catalysts"
Yuzo Ohno	Associate Professor, Research Institute of Electrical Communication, Tohoku University	"Research on Spin Injection in Semiconductor Quantum Structure and on Electron/Nuclear Spin Properties"
Takashi Kato	Professor, School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"Development of Functional Materials Using Self-organization"
Hidetoshi Katori	Associate Professor, School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"Development of Ultra-high Precision Atomic Clock Using Optical Lattices"
Shū Kobayashi	Professor, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo	"Development of Environmentally Benign Reaction Processes through Restructuring of Organic Reaction Media"
Toshinori Suzuki	Chief Scientist, RIKEN	"Imaging of Chemical Reactions Using Molecular Beam Scattering Method"
Yasuko Takei	Associate Professor, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo	"Advances in Solid Earth Science through Research on Dynamics of Solid-liquid Composites"
Hiroki Habazaki	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University	"Development of Nonequilibrium Functional Materials and Elucidation of Surface Reaction Mechanisms Using Nonequilibrium Phases"
Toshimasa Fujisawa	Distinguished Technical Member, Senior Research Scientist, Supervisor, NTT Basic Research Laboratories, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation	"Research on Quantum-state Control of Semiconductor Quantum Dots"
Shinichi Mochizuki	Professor, Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University	"Research on the Arithmetic Geometry of Hyperbolic Curves, including Solution via p-adic Methods of the Grothendieck Conjecture on Anabelian Geometry"
Biological Sciences; Agricultural Sciences; Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical Sciences		
Koichi Akashi	Professor, Center for Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Kyushu University Hospital	"Studies on Pathway of Lineage Specification from Hematopoietic Stem Cells"
Tadashi Uemura	Professor, Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University	"Studies on Genetic Programs of Cell Polarity Underlying Multicellular Organization"
Atsushi Kumanogoh	Associate Professor, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University	"Studies on Regulation of Immune Responses by Semaphorins"
Michihiko Kobayashi	Professor, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba	"Molecular and Functional Studies on Nitrile Metabolism and Its Application to Industrial Production"
Hiroshi Takayanagi	Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Graduate School	"Studies on the Regulation of Bone Metabolism by the Immune System"
Keiichi Nakayama	Professor, Medical Institute of Bioregulation, Kyushu University	"Studies on Control Mechanisms for Cell Proliferation and Cell Death in Mammals"
Mitsuyasu Hasebe	Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology, National Institutes of Natural Sciences; Professor, School of Life Science, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies	"Molecular Phylogenetic and Evolutionary Developmental Studies of Plants"
Naoki Watanabe	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University	"Studies on Molecular Dynamics of Actin Polymerization in Living Cells"

(Affiliation at time Prize was awarded)

This program is carried out by the Research Fellowship Division.

FEATURE: JSPS Prize

Young Researchers at Vanguard of Science in Japan *Awardees Speak about Their Work and Aspirations*

“Comparative Studies on Mediterranean/Middle Eastern Cultures and Literatures from the Perspective of Medieval Hebrew Literature”

The research for which I received the JSPS Prize may be said to have two distinct characteristics: The first is that it constitutes a highly detailed study of original texts that provide the basis for interpreting and emending medieval Hebrew manuscripts preserved in the Jewish archives (genizah) of old Cairo. Secondly, this kind of literature-based study offers a pliant method of doing comparative cultural research, in this case aimed at elucidating the complex relationship between Jews who lived as a minority in the Mediterranean Basin and Middle East and the majority Christian and Muslim populations in those regions.

My research aspires to have an influence on three levels. The first is to continue to advance research based on original texts within the narrowly defined field of medieval Hebrew literature and, in so doing, obtain

results at the world's highest level. The second is to establish Jewish studies as an academic field in Japan. This is a highly interdisciplinary area of research, as it comprehensively probes and analyzes Judaism from a variety of perspectives. To date, it has been a field pursued mainly by researchers in Israel, North America and Europe. Another dimension of maturation might be added to Jewish studies if they were to be pursued in earnest by Japanese researchers as well. The third is to conduct what would be an unprecedented study: a comprehensive comparison of the three monotheistic civilizations of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Japanese have only a shallow familiarity with monotheistic religions, which I believe may give us a more objective, detached position from which to pursue such comparative investigations.



Dr. Naoya Katsumata

1994	Graduated from The University of Tokyo
2003	Received Ph.D. from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
2003	JSPS SPD (Superlative Postdoctoral) Fellow
Presently	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

“Ethnographical Studies on the Politics of Culture and Communities in Contemporary America”

I received the JSPS Prize for an ethnographical study I conducted comparing White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs) and conservative Irish Catholics. I am very pleased that the results of this study, based on cultural anthropological fieldwork, were highly appraised by the Prize Committee. My work took a critical view of Robert Putnam's theories on social capital and community, which have exerted a strong influence both academically and politically. These theories, however, fail to weigh differences in ethnicity, race, religion, gender, education, occupation, income and other such factors or to take into sufficient account regional contexts. The result, I believe, renders them flat public policy theories. Guided by this perspective, I embarked upon my research on the politics of culture and community reconstruction in contem-

porary America.

Over recent years, there has in the academic world been a strong tendency toward statistical analysis and application-oriented research. Consequently, researchers who painstakingly incorporate fieldwork and literature analysis in their work have, I am afraid, in many cases not received proper recognition. This trend is ironic, particularly at the present time when there is an unprecedented need for intercultural understanding. I believe this JSPS Prize will serve to spur on my colleagues and their protégés who are steadily advancing on-the-ground research in the humanities and social sciences, for which encouragement I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.



Dr. Yasushi Watanabe

1990	Graduated from Sophia University
1997	Received Ph.D. from Harvard University
1997	JSPS PD (Postdoctoral Research) Fellow
Presently	Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University

"Development of Environmentally Benign Reaction Processes through Restructuring of Organic Reaction Media"

In organic synthesis, might it be possible to use water instead of organic solvents, which are used ubiquitously at present? Seeking an answer to this question marked the start our research. One discovery prompted us to think about conducting research on realizing the chemical reaction of organic substances in water. At that time, we used a Lewis acid catalyst in performing organic synthesis. In a broad sense, "Lewis acid" is an acid; however, it has long been used as a catalyst as well. Our initial research was naturally carried out using an organic solvent. This was because Lewis acid, if used as a catalyst, decomposes in even a small amount of water. From this synthesis approach, we obtained a hint: certain rare-earth metal compounds used as Lewis acid catalysts would surely, we thought, be stable in an aqueous media. We set about performing experiments to test this hypothesis. As anticipated, we were able to achieve a Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction in water. This was the first time in the world for this to be done. At the same, we were able

to disprove what had been the accepted notion that "Lewis acid is unstable in water." As catalytic reaction in water, when perfected, can eliminate the need to use harmful organic solvents in industrial processes, it holds great potential as a new, environmentally friendly technology to be applied in years ahead.

The task of our group has only just begun. It is a formidable one, and every day we struggle to meet its daunting challenges. In pursuing our work, however, nature gives us constant encouragement.

Numerous and intricate organic reactions occur within the body of living organisms, including humans. They sustain life functions. Our bodies, however, contain no organic solvents; only water. Over the long history of evolution, it has been no more than 100 years since organic synthesis has been done in organic solvents. Before that, all organic syntheses were performed in the water of a living body. In this sense, it may



Dr. Shū Kobayashi

- 1983 Graduated from The University of Tokyo
- 1988 Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo
- 1992 Associate Professor, Science University of Tokyo
- Presently Professor, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo
ERATO Project Director

be said that our challenge is to go back to the starting point. Needless to say, water holds the key to life activities. Ultimately, our research seeks a true understanding of life and nature; and as such, fills our breasts with soaring expectations.

"Advances in Solid Earth Science through Research on Dynamics of Solid-liquid Composites"

The mechanical properties, such as elasticity and rheology, of solid-liquid composite systems are sensitive to the distribution of the liquid phase. In the Earth interior exist fluids such as water and melt, which significantly affect volcanic activity, earthquake source processes and seismic wave propagation. Developing my own theoretical and experimental approaches, I set out to elucidate the state of fluid phase under various mechanical and thermodynamic conditions and its influence on the mechanical properties of solid-liquid composites. As a result, I developed a new method to identify patterns of fluid movements in the Earth interior directly from seismic tomographic data, which had previously been discussed indirectly using geological and petrological data.

Beneath Japan, H₂O fluids generated by the dehydration of subducting plates ascend upward due to buoyancy. The mantle wedge supplied with H₂O partially melts. Using the dense networks of broad-band seismographs in Japan, the three-dimensional seismic velocity and seismic attenuation structures of such partially molten zones can now be imaged in high resolution. Also, in the lower crust and upper mantle, where researchers had believed there to be no seismicity, mysterious low-frequency earthquakes and tremors have been discovered, which are associated with the movements of these H₂O fluids and melts. Understanding the mechanical properties of solid-liquid composite systems is a key to deciphering the fluid processes from these observations, along with developing a new observation method.



Dr. Yasuko Takei

- 1989 Graduated from The University of Tokyo
- 1995 Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo
- 1995 JSPS PD (Postdoctoral Research) Fellow
- Presently Associate Professor, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

FEATURE: JSPS Prize

“Studies on the Regulation of Bone Metabolism by the Immune System”

While engaged as an orthopedic surgeon in the treatment of patients with joint diseases, I started my research on the mechanism of bone loss in autoimmune arthritic patients. The skeletal system, which enables body movement, and the immune system, which protects the body against infection, had been considered to have completely separate functions. From even a scientific perspective, little research had therefore been done on interaction between the two systems. It seemed to me, however, that it would be necessary to study regulation of bone remodeling by the immune system if the cause of bone destruction in rheumatoid arthritis was to be elucidated. Accordingly, I transferred from an orthopedic to an immunology laboratory. There, I discovered that the aberrant regulation of osteoclast formation by lymphocytes (T cells) is responsible for bone destruction in rheumatoid arthritis. Such results yielded a new

discipline termed “osteoinmunology,” which has attracted considerable attention as one of the frontier fields of medical research.

Furthermore, in the attempt to identify molecules having an important function in bone cells, I found that a number of immunomodulatory molecules are involved in the skeletal system. Using genetically modified mice deficient in immunomodulatory molecules, I discovered a variety of bone abnormalities. This caused me to realize that the immune and skeletal systems must be viewed from a common viewpoint to be properly understood. As I continue to work on elucidating higher order physiological functions at the molecular level, I hope to direct my research in such a way as to produce results useful in the treatment of patients.



Dr. Hiroshi Takayanagi

1990	Graduated from The University of Tokyo
1998	JSPS DC (Doctoral Course) Fellow
2001	Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo
2001	JSPS PD (Postdoctoral Research) Fellow
Presently	Researcher in the SORST program of Japan Science and Technology Agency Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University Graduate School

“Molecular Phylogenetic and Evolutionary Developmental Studies of Plants”

The first step in exploring biodiversity is to describe species and to analyze their relationships. Plants without flowers, such as ferns, have a simpler morphology than those with flowers. However, their phylogenetic relationships have been subject to controversy due to a lack of sufficient data. We successfully employed nucleotide sequences of chloroplast genes to infer phylogenetic relationships in non-flowering plants. I personally collected the materials during many field trips, which allowed me to observe the plants' habitat as well as their morphology in detail. The accompanying photograph was taken on the highest mountain of the Guiana highland, where I collected an endemic fern. These opportunities led me to analyzing the evolution of morphological characters. Some of the

results we obtained from the sequence data were surprisingly nonconcordant with those based on traditional methods. Some species had very different morphologies in spite of their close relationships, while others had very similar morphologies though being only distantly related. As morphology is formed via networks of developmental genes, we started comparing these genetic networks in some model plants to elucidate their differences, and were successful. Such “EvoDevo” studies gave us several new insights on the evolution of plant body plans. In addition to this work, I have just started to explore genes involved in the evolution from uni- to multi-cellular organisms.



Dr. Mitsuyasu Hasebe

1987	Graduated from The University of Tokyo
1992	Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo
1993	JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad
Presently	Professor, School of Life Science, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology, National Institutes of Natural Sciences

Messages from JSPS Officers

Ms. Yuko Furukawa, Administrative Advisor (Former Director, International Program Department)



Looking back, JSPS's international thrust got its start around 1960 with the launching of the US-Japan Cooperative Science Program with National Science Foundation and another program for inviting foreign researchers to Japan. In 1967, JSPS was converted from a private foundation to a quasi-governmental organization, at which juncture it built upon the base of its US-Japan Science Program to expand its program framework to incorporate scientific agreements with France, Germany and the UK and the establishment of the US-Japan Cancer Program and Education Program. From then till 2004, a concerted effort was made to dramatically augment JSPS's international offerings, and, especially during the mid-1970s to early 1980s and at the beginning of the 21st century, to energize and enhance them. East-West Cold War polarization was at its height in the mid-1970s when JSPS embarked upon its first major phase of program expansion. JSPS sought to increase the size and scope of its international program by including within it collaborations with the Soviet Union,

China and Eastern Europe. This we did while working to gain the understanding of our Western partners for this new program branching. To meet Japan's responsibilities as a member of the Western bloc, JSPS used ODA funding to carry out a program of scientific exchanges with Southeast Asian countries via a collaborative network of core universities.

JSPS's second expansionary phase began around the year 2000 and is still ongoing. With the collapse of the Cold War structure, JSPS worked to expand its programs in line with the newly emerging world order. This new era not only spurred rapid advances in science and technology but also gave advent to massive geopolitical restructuring, which required JSPS's programs to be more diversified and quicker in their response to change. It was at this critical point that our Research Program Department was established, placing JSPS on a solid footing as a research-funding agency.

For researchers from abroad, a three-pillared fellowship program has been created. It comprises JSPS's initial Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan and its subsequently added Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers and Award for Eminent Scientists. Through these fellowships, some 4,000 overseas researchers come to Japan each year. Over the past 40 years, a very significant number of researchers have done stints in Japan under

these and other JSPS programs. JSPS values this network of former fellows and sees it as an asset to be fostered in years ahead.

Given this dynamic evolution of JSPS's international activities, I was delighted to be appointed Director of its International Program Department. During my tenure in the position, I found the work to be as rewarding as it was challenging. Throughout, I was greatly assisted by the unqualified support I received from the staffs of JSPS's overseas partner agencies, foreign embassies in Japan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Japan's overseas agencies and consulates. I wish to extend my warmest appreciation to each of the many people with whom I worked both in and outside JSPS. I learned much from you and profited from your intellectual stimulus.

JSPS was converted into an independent administrative institution in October 2003. Following suit, Japan's national universities were "incorporated" a half year later. From 2005, each of them is mandated to establish its own international strategy planning office. Amidst these new concepts and blueprints, Mr. Hiroshi Fukai has taken the reins of JSPS's International Program Department. In my new post as Administrative Advisor, I will be pleased if I can work alongside him in achieving yet new program strides.

Mr. Hiroshi Fukai, New Director, International Program Department



As of 1 April, I succeeded Ms. Yuko Furukawa as the Director of the JSPS International Program Department and the JSPS Fellows Plaza. I wish to take this opportunity to offer a few

words of introduction.

Japan carries out a wide range of international scientific exchanges with countries around the world. The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science plays a pivotal role in such international exchanges by way of a comprehensive program that supports joint research, seminars, and researcher exchanges. JSPS has of late been vigorously augmenting its program offerings, including the enhancement of its Core University Program with partner countries in Asia, and the establish-

ment of its multilateral Core-to-Core Program with Western countries. In addition, JSPS offers fellowships to Japan for researchers from other countries. They are tailored to a range of career levels from eminent researchers with superlative records of achievement to young researchers with high potential.

I will do my best to ensure that these JSPS programs are implemented in a steady yet robust manner. I look forward to an opportunity to meet you, JSPS's valued friends and affiliates.

Prof. Masaru Osanai, New London Office Director



Over recent years, international competition has become more visible in the realm of higher education. In research as well as education, such competition is growing in intensity. Whereas it has been the traditional mission of universities to contribute widely to society, that mandate has now been expanded to participation in international cooperation projects. Accordingly, competition is increasing among them for project commissions from international agencies, such as multilateral development banks.

Concomitantly, the latter half of the 1990s saw the launching of several

initiatives to address a range of pressing global issues. They included the Kyoto Protocol, the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Dakar Framework for Action to attain "education for all." Through them, a framework of goals and follow-up milestones has been established—mainly through decisions made by national governments and international agencies. It should not be overlooked, however, that interaction among university researchers of various countries and across a spectrum of fields, including economics and environmental sciences, has played a vital role in this process.

From this viewpoint, the UK may be considered one of the world's leading countries when it comes to reflecting international consensus and opinion in its national philosophy and research precepts. When seeking to advance the kind of science that "benefits humankind," there is much Japanese science administrators and practitioners can

learn from their colleagues in the UK. I will be pleased if, through the London Office's operation, we can familiarize ourselves better with the "UK approach" to scientific research, and in so doing, help Japan, in even a small way, to play a greater role in international society.

Before assuming the post of director of JSPS's London Office, Masaru Osanai was a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Japan. During that time, he initiated a program to support the commissioning of aid agencies' international cooperation projects to Japan's national, public and private universities under MEXT's "Support and Coordination Project for University Cooperation in International Development (SCP)." In another area, he was engaged in MEXT's international student, researcher and educator exchange programs. While working in the broadcasting arm of The University of the Air, he also gathered information on international distance learning.

MoU Signed for New Program with German Research Foundation (DFG)

On 8 April, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and DFG president Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker signed a memorandum of understanding to inaugurate a new program between the two agencies, titled "Japanese-German Graduate Externship—International Research Training Groups." As a means to promote exchange among them, the new program supports coordinated joint research and reciprocal researcher development in Japanese and German graduate schools.

Launched in the "German Year in Japan," this program constitutes one tangible product of an agreement to strengthen bilateral science, technology



Prof. Dr. Winnacker and Prof. Ono

and academic cooperation and exchange made by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at their summits of August 2003 and December 2004.

Under the program, inter-university projects are supported for a period of three years. During this time, funding is provided, based on the provisions of the MoU, to cover the costs of participating doctoral students, both their travel to and stays for a period of months at counterpart universities; faculty travel expenses; and holding student-organized seminars. JSPS and DFG share these costs of program implementation.

A call for FY2006 proposals is scheduled to be issued this fall.

— Research Cooperation Division II

JSPS and NRF Conclude MoU

JSPS and the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) have

signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which makes South Africa

JSPS's first formal bilateral exchange partner on the continent.

On 4 March, Dr. Baldwin Sipho Ngubane, South African Ambassador to Japan, and Mr. Vuyani Lingela, counselor of the South African Embassy, came to JSPS on NRF's behalf and hand-delivered the MoU signed by NRF president Dr. Khotso Mokhele. The agreement went into immediate effect upon its signing by JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono.

At the signing session, Prof. Ono said that concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with South Africa was a

meaningful and joyous occasion for both countries as it marked JSPS first such formal collaboration in Africa. Dr. Ngubane replied that research exchanges between the two countries will become all the more vigorous under the bilateral framework.

In the weeks ahead, the two agencies will consult on the schedule and other details of the joint research program to be implemented under the new MoU.

— Asian Program Division



Prof. Ono and Dr. Ngubane

Second Event in ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers

From 12-18 March, the second event in the "Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers," a program developed by JSPS and the European Science Foundation (ESF), was held in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, and ESF chief executive Prof. Bertil Andersson, opened the conference with messages of greeting. The event was co-chaired by Prof. Seigo Tarucha, The University of Tokyo, and Prof. Martin Plenio, Imperial College, London, and attended by 73 senior experts and young researchers from Europe and Japan.

Held on the theme "Quantum Information and Quantum Physics," the conference brought together leading re-



searchers in the area of quantum information science from Europe and Japan. All of the research presentations reported exciting progress towards the implementation of experimental quantum information processing systems.

The event also had scheduled into it an excursion to the ancient shogunate capital of Kamakura and a cultural program. JSPS and ESF agreed to expand the series by conducting follow-up workshops, which are to revisit the topics covered at conferences three years down the road.

— Research Cooperation Division I

Tenth Anniversary of Ono/Sumitomo Japan-China Medical Researcher Exchange

On 22 April, a seminar was held in Beijing to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Ono/Sumitomo Japan-China Medical Researcher Exchange.

This program has, since its establishment in 1995, been carried out under a memorandum of understanding between JSPS and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) and funded through an endowment made by Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. The commemorative seminar was attended

by CAMS president Prof. Depei Liu, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, members of the two steering committees, and many of the Chinese researchers who have come to Japan as fellows under the program.

Scientifically, the seminar addressed three themes: cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and genomics. On them, presentations, rich in both content and timeliness, were delivered by frontline medical researchers from both sides.

— Asian Program Division



Prof. Ono and Prof. Liu

Indo-Japan Joint Workshop on Tsunami Research

On 18-19 March, this workshop was held at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad, India. In the wake of last December's Great Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami, JSPS and the Indian government's Department of Science & Technology (DST) decided to hold this tsunami workshop. It was attended by Prof. Teruyuki Kato, Earthquake Re-

search Institute, The University of Tokyo, and eight other Japanese specialists, and by Dr. R.K. Chadha, NGRI, and 24 Indian researchers. Their presentations and discussions encompassed a wide range of perspectives, including geology, geophysics, seismology, marine science, and disaster prevention. The workshop offered the researchers from the two countries



an ideal opportunity to exchange information and build networks across a span of fields. Toward the end, recommendations were sought on areas of interest for conducting joint research.

— Asian Program Division

RONPAKU Meeting Held in Bangkok

On 4 February, JSPS's Bangkok Office, in cooperation with the National Research Council of Thailand, held the third JSPS-NRCT RONPAKU Fellows



Meeting. Four of the six Thai RONPAKU Fellows who obtained PhDs from Japanese universities during 2003-2004 period were present and received RONPAKU medals from Ms. Yuko Furukawa, director of JSPS's International Program Department. This was preceded by congratulatory addresses from her and NRCT secretary-general Prof. Ahnond Bunyaratvej.

This year, the Bangkok Office sug-

gested that former RONPAKU Fellows establish an "Association of RONPAKU Alumni" (ARA) in Thailand. The Thai participants in the meeting selected the members of an ARA executive board: namely, Prof. Dr. Busaba Yongsmith, Kasetsart University, and five other alumni from different universities. After deliberating and deciding the association's bylaws, they declared the launching of ARA, Thailand.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

Japan-German Colloquium 2005 Held in Dresden

On 14-16 February, JSPS's Bonn Office held Japan-German Colloquium 2005 on the Dresden campus of Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems. Titled "Semiconductor Physics and Technology," it was cosponsored by TU Dresden (Technical University of Dresden) and MPI for the Physics of Complex Systems.

This series of small-scale colloquia was launched by the Bonn Office last year. They feature presentations and intensive discussions on research related to selected cutting-edge scientific theme. As such, they are meant to deepen mutual understanding and promote research collaboration among the young frontline Japanese and German researchers who participate in them.

The theme for this second colloquium was decided by JSPS executive director Dr. Kenichi Iga and Prof. Dr. Jörg

Weber, dean of Science Faculty, TU Dresden, and the lecturers were chosen by the two program coordinators: Prof. Yasuhiko Arakawa, The University of Tokyo, and Dr. Edward Lavrov, TU Dresden.

In line with the colloquium's theme on basic S&T for realizing the next generation of digitally networked society, researchers from the two countries reported on the results of their leading-edge work on such topics as quantum dots, photonic crystals, nanophotonic devices, quantum information devices and other semiconductor

nanotechnologies and new semiconductor materials. These presentations were given by 10 Japanese and 12 German researchers. Comprising the audience was a sizable number of German postdocs and graduate students, whose spirited participation in the Q&A sessions and discussions electrified the atmosphere within the hall. After the colloquium ended on the 16th, the participants divided into two groups and toured Research Center Rossendorf and Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research Dresden.



Many of the participants expressed delight over the colloquium's high degree of sophistication and said they look forward to the periodic convening of such meetings on cutting-edge fields of research being advanced in Japan. The third colloquium in the series is scheduled to address the theme "robotics."

— JSPS Bonn Office

Colloquium Held with Center for Japanese Studies, UCB

On 18-19 March, JSPS's San Francisco Office partnered with the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) to hold the Office's second "Science Colloquium," this time on the theme "The 'Globalization' of Japanese Studies: Southeast Asian Perspectives." The venue was the Alumni House on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley (UCB).

The participants explored the role played by Japan studies, as a field of academic research, in the process of building modern societies by Southeast Asian countries. CJS's participation as the cosponsor added a special depth of insight to the discussion on future prospects and issues relative to Japan studies. The colloquium was attended by JSPS executive director Mr. Isao Kiso, who delivered the opening remarks, and enjoyed the participation of researchers from the US, Japan, and

nations of Southeast Asia.

The first day of the event featured two sessions, entitled "The Political, Economic and Diplomatic Context" and "Intellectual and Cultural Dimensions." Each session was accentuated by insightful presentations and active discussions. Delivering the presentations were three Japanese researchers along with specialists from Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and the US. They spoke about the impact of Japan studies on Southeast Asia from the perspectives of their various fields. The meeting went very well, with an attendance of over 80 UCB researchers and students and other academics from the vicinity.

For a prospectus and program of the meeting, please see the following website: <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/news03.html>



The second day featured a follow-up workshop carried out by the previous day's lecturers. Revolving around issues not sufficiently probed in the two sessions, their discussion was so animated as to go well beyond the scheduled finishing time. Through its process of introducing the roles that Japan studies play in each country and field, the colloquium offered an important platform for exploring new vantage points that may redefine Japan studies in the years ahead.

— JSPS San Francisco Office

Recent Visitors to JSPS (February-April 2005)

IHÉS Director Visits JSPS

On 22 February, Dr. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, director, IHÉS (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques), made a visit to JSPS's headquarters in Tokyo. IHÉS plays a central role in the European Post-Doctoral Institute (EPDI), a consortium of nine of Europe's leading research institutions in the field of mathematics. With EPDI, JSPS is carrying out a pilot program to send young Japanese

researchers to the nine European institutions. Currently, two talented Japanese mathematicians are dispatched to Europe under the program.

During Dr. Bourguignon's visit, he engaged in a congenial exchange of views with JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono. They agreed that the EPDI program has the potential to further stimulate the exchange of young researchers between Japan and France. Dr. Bourguignon, then, met with Dr. Heisuke



Hironaka and other leading Japanese mathematicians. They discussed the JSPS Prize and other approaches being used in the two countries to stimulate and foster young researchers.

— Research Cooperation Division I

MOSTEC Minister Visits JSPS



Mr. Puntsag Tsagaan, Minister, and Mr. Dugersuren Bayar, head of Tertiary Education Division, Ministry of Science, Technology, Education and Culture of Mongolia, and Prof. Dugeriiin Regdel, secretary general of Mongolian Academy of Sciences visited JSPS on 22 February. JSPS and MOSTEC had joined

forces in supporting a joint seminar held in Mongolia by The University of Tokyo and Mongolian Agricultural University in June 2004. Now, the two agencies are planning to support another joint seminar in this fiscal year.

— Asian Program Division

VCC Officials Visit JSPS

On 3 March, Prof. Alias Daud (coordinator for JSPS-VCC) and two other officials of the Vice-Chancellors' Council of National Universities in Malaysia (VCC) came to JSPS to meet with Mr. Hiromichi Endo, head of the Asian Program Division. During their discussion, a frank exchange of views was held on

the JSPS-VCC implemented Core University Program, both its current state and ways to enhance it, and on the future direction of scientific collaboration between Japan and Malaysia.

The VCC delegation asked several questions about JSPS's new Asian CORE Program and AA Science Platform Program, and expressed strong expectations in JSPS's Asian



program initiatives.

— Asian Program Division



JSPS Alumni Associations

Stockholm

JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden Holds General Meeting

On 11 February, the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden held their first seminar along with their first general meeting since the members initial gathering in January of last year. Twenty-four former JSPS fellows came to Stockholm from around Sweden to attend the meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. They decided upon the association's bylaws, elected officers, and held a free discussion.

The following eight persons were chosen as the association's executive committee:

Chair: Dr. Ma Li Svensson (Linköping University)
Vice-Chair: Prof. Carlos A Rubio (Karolinska Institute)
Prof. Stig G. Allenmark (Göteborg University)
Prof. Magnus Larson (Lund University)
Prof. Jan Sedzik (Karolinska Institute)
Prof. Lembit Sihver (Chalmers University of Technology)
Prof. Ulla Westermark (Luleå University of Technology)
Prof. P. Åke Öberg (Linköping University)



After lunch, a seminar featuring a presentation by JSPS's Stockholm Office deputy director Mr. Isao Mizuta was convened. He spoke on the theme "Higher Education in Japan," to which the participants showed keen interest via probing questions and engaging discussions. In a spirit of renewed commitment, the above commemorative photograph was taken of the group at the end of the event.

Quick to get started, the Alumni Club has already created a webpage and published its second newsletter. Our Stockholm Office stands ready to support the Club as it moves forward in developing its program.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

Bonn

Symposium Held to Celebrate 10th Anniversary of German JSPS Club

JSPS's Bonn Office organizes an annual symposium in co-operation with the JSPS Club (German fellows' alumni association) for the purpose of introducing leading-edge research being advanced in both countries, while promoting mutual understanding and joint initiatives between researchers of the two countries. This year, the event was held on 22-23 April at Günnewig Hotel Bristol in Bonn.

The symposium, which celebrated the tenth anniversary of the JSPS Club, did not this time have one scientific topic as its subject. Rather, it was held on the theme "Prospects of Japanese-German Scientific Cooperation," under which presentations were given in six fields: biotechnology, physical chemistry, comparative and international education, physics, legal science, and psychological science. (The speakers' CVs and abstracts can be found on the following website: <http://www.jspc-bonn.de/pages/nk05.htm>)



Each topic was addressed by a pair of Japanese and German researchers who had worked together in a JSPS program. The pairs reported on the latest developments in their respective fields and on the products and prospects obtained through their collaborative work. They also offered proposals on ways to further advance Japan-German scientific cooperation.

In prelude to these presentations, remarks were offered by Mr. Akira Mizutani, Minister, Japanese Embassy in Germany; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hess, vice-rector, University of Bonn; Dr. Georg Schütte, secretary general, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH); and Mr. Isao Kiso, executive director, JSPS. They congratulated the JSPS Club on its ten years of successful operation and voiced their expectations in the Club's role as a bridge for promoting German-Japanese understanding. Following them, JSPS Club chair Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhaus, currently a professor at Philipps-University of Marburg, gave an address entitled "The History of the German JSPS-Club."

After the symposium ended on the first day, a dinner party was held for all the participants. At it, Dr. Heinrich Pfeiffer, former secretary general, AvH, offered a toast with a wish for further development of Japan-German exchange. After the second day's sessions, a cultural program was held along with the annual meeting of the JSPS Club. At the meeting, an annual report was presented and an active discussion



held on such items of business as plans for next year's symposium.

Attending the symposium were members of the JSPS Club, researchers from Bonn and other regions of Germany, and representatives of AvH, DFG, DAAD and other JSPS partner agencies. They listened attentively to the lecturers, who articulated the highly advanced content of their research in an easy-to-understand manner, allowing every one to engage actively in the Q&A discussions.

An excellent response was received from the participants, who praised as highly meaningful the historical perspective offered by means of the concrete cases presented of Japan-German collaborative research. Besides the participants, considerable interest was also shown by the press, who interviewed the speakers and members of the Club and asked for symposium-related materials.

— JSPS Bonn Office

Washington, DC

American Alumni Hold Symposium at Princeton

As part of its program to support the activities of the US JSPS Fellows Alumni Association, our office in Washington, DC funded a symposium organized by former JSPS fellows. It was held on 21-22 February under the title "JSPS-PRISM-TAMU Symposium on Quantum Materials Science." The acronyms in the title stand for the three cosponsors: JSPS, Princeton University, and Texas A&M University.

Opening remarks were delivered by former JSPS fellow Dr. Anil Kumar Patnaik, who chaired the symposium's organizing committee. Presentations were given by Prof. Kohzo Hakuta, who was Dr. Patnaik's host scientist at The University of Electro-Communications in Japan, and by Prof. Marlan Scully, who is currently guiding Dr. Patnaik's research work at Texas A&M. Attended by over 100 people, who actively engaged the lecturers in questions and discussion, the event



was very successful in advancing dialogue on the theme as well as in spreading information on JSPS programs and deepening exchange between researchers from the US and Japan.

The symposium was followed by a reception on the first day, which featured a presentation by Washington Office director Prof. Akira Masaike, who spoke about JSPS activities and those of the postdoctoral fellows' alumni association.

— JSPS Washington Office

Events

London Office

The 2nd General Assembly of the UK JSPS Alumni Association
"Earth Shaking Events: Natural Disasters and Their Global Impact"
Royal Geographical Society, London, 14 July 2005

JSPS-UCL Large Scale Symposium 2005
"Cognition and Action"
University College London, London, 8-9 September 2005

Bonn Office

German-Japanese Symposium in Tokyo
"Urban Planning – Sustainable Cities"
National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Tokyo, 12 September 2005

San Francisco Office

JSPS/UBC Asian Studies Joint Colloquium
"Experiences With and Within: Christians in Japan from 16th Century to Present Days"
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 23-24 September 2005

Recruitments

For FY 2005

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Short-term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 8-12 August 2005

For FY 2006

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Standard)
JSPS Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan (Short/Long-term)
Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 5-9 September 2005

For details, ask a prospective host researcher or visit our website.

Series 5

Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow

Dr. Gad Mohamed El-Qady came to Japan from Egypt in October 2003 under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship. He is conducting research in geophysics with his host Prof. Keisuke Ushijima in the Faculty of Engineering at Kyushu University. Prof. Ushijima, who was also Dr. El-Qady's faculty supervisor when he was a graduate student, said about him, "He works extremely hard and always displays a smiley, bright personality, and can be depended upon to look after the overseas and other students in our lab."

You originally came to Japan in 1997 as a graduate student under a scholarship from the Japanese Education Ministry, didn't you?

Yes, that's true. In the beginning, my proposed PhD study was related to geo-physical exploration for geothermal resources and groundwater. Research on this topic had been advanced in Japanese institutes.

What is the subject of your current research work under the JSPS fellowship?

My current research is related to 3D imaging of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and



Dr. El-Qady doing an electromagnetic survey in new urban area of Egypt



landmines using electrical and electro-magnetic methods. I have successfully applied a time-domain electromagnetic (TEM) technique to devise a prototype survey for detecting buried landmines. It can be used for conducting balloon-borne surveys, which eliminate the risks of ground surveys in mine fields.

How did you become interested in your research field?

During my master's studies, I learned about the problem of landmines and UXO in Egypt, which ranks first among nations plagued with this hazard. During my PhD work, I had many discussions with my host researcher (PhD supervisor) about the application of geophysics in reducing the risk of searching for UXO and landmines.

What merits do you find in conducting your research in Japan?

Japanese institutions have stability in funding, planning and research implementation, which makes Japan a stable place to do research. An unstable research environment is reflected in the outcome of one's work. Given the good research environment and the high level of Japanese institutions, one of the main merits of doing research in Japan is the enhanced stimulus one receives in forming research concepts.

Moreover, thanks to Japan's economic facilities, one is able to join many international conferences, which enables direct contact and discussion with other professionals in the same field.

What do you usually do outside of your research work?

Among my various activities on campus, I enjoy spending my spare time in the cultural exchanges with friends, both foreign and Japanese. I



Dr. Gad Mohamed El-Qady

M.Sc. (Geophysics), Faculty of Science, Mansoura University, Egypt, 1995
Ph.D. (Geophysics), Faculty of Engineering, Kyushu University, 2001

find these to be good opportunities to tell others about my Arabic and Islamic culture. For instant, I enjoy attending and moderating cultural seminars at Kyushu University, particularly those on Arabic and Islamic culture. When I was a graduate student, I and some friends established the Kyushu University Muslim Students Association, to which I now act as sort of a senior advisor. Also, I sometimes use my weekends to stay at the homes of Japanese families or to go on picnics or outings with my family.

I'd like to finish with some advice you might give someone about to begin a JSPS fellowship?

To get a JSPS fellowship is not easy; hence, when you receive one you are lucky. So try as much as you can to seize the opportunity and enrich and broaden your research experience. At the same time, try to get close to the Japanese people and learn more about their culture, especially if it is your first time to be in Japan. Of course, you must practice Japanese and enhance your language skills.

Interview by JSPS Fellows Plaza

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 Ichibanchō, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8471 or fax it to us at +81-3-3263-1854. Please indicate whether you are a current or former JSPS Fellow.

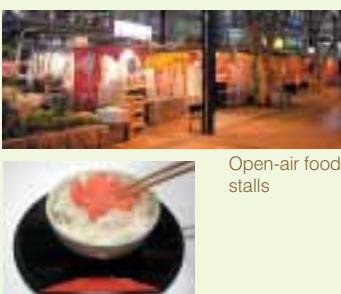
Introducing Japan: Fukuoka

The city of Fukuoka is located in the north-west quarter of Kyushu Island. Japan's archipelago comprises four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu. With a population of over one million, Fukuoka is well known as Kyushu's political, economic and cultural hub. It ranks among Japan's five largest metropolises.

One of Fukuoka's most captivating features is the over 200 open-air food stalls that line the city's nocturnal streets and alleys.



Hakata ramen



Karashi mentaiko on sizzling rice

Among their menu items is a local specialty called *hakata ramen*—thin noodles drowned in a turbid bowl of pork-bone soup. If one finishes eating the noodles but still has some soup left, the stall proprietors are known to re-supply the noodles in your bowl. This is a special custom peculiar to *hakata ramen*.

Another local delicacy is *karashi mentaiko*, or spicy chilled cod roe. Salted and marinated with a peppery seasoning, this mass

of fish eggs is very tasty when eaten with rice. (Really! Just ask anybody in Fukuoka.) That's why it makes such a popular souvenir.



JSPS Science Dialogue

JSPS is conducting a program in the lead-up to the possible implementation of a new initiative called "Science Dialogue," which allows JSPS Fellows to participate in the education and research curricula of high schools in the vicinity of their host institutions.

On 1 February, Dr. Kyle Armstrong, a Fellow at Kyoto University, gave a lecture on "phylogeographic and genetic studies of micro-bats in and around Japan" to some 40 students at Ritsumeikan High School. His lecture was held on the campus of Ritsumeikan University at the Co-Learning House, which is a facility used to accommodate the Super Science High School Program at Ritsumeikan High School.

Using an abundance of photographs, Dr. Armstrong introduced the students to the natural environment of his home country, Australia, while describing the research activities of biologists and his own reasons for wanting to become a scientist. Then, he gave a lecture on bats, the subject of his research.

Explaining the ecology of bats, Dr. Armstrong went on to say that doing a survey of bat distribution



Dr. Kyle Armstrong

required geographical knowledge as well. That is, he explained, pursuing this line of research meant he had to obtain knowledge outside his own area of expertise. From the perspective of preserving the bats' ecosystem, his research, though biological, is also closely related to the social issue of environmental protection. In this respect as well, Dr. Armstrong explained how he has had to expand the scope of his activities in course of carrying out his work.

Using a list of key words distributed by Dr. Armstrong in advance, the students prepared themselves to receive his lecture. Using both the English words and Japanese, the students asked volleys of questions, everything from "Are bats with big eyes able to see?" to "What is the meaning of protecting rare species?"

— Overseas Fellowship Division



Students enjoying Dr. Armstrong's lecture



Cover photo: "Tsukubai"

A washbowl originally used to cleanse one's hands and mouth before a tea ceremony; now placed as an ornament in Japanese gardens.

About JSPS

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) was established as an independent administrative institution to perform the following main functions: fund scientific research, foster researchers, and promote international scientific exchange.



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.



Request for Reader Comments

We are taking a survey with an eye to reflecting reader interests in the *JSPS Quarterly*. If you have an opinion or impression of our newsletters, we would like to hear from you. We are interested in your overall impression of the newsletter; in which articles you are most interested and why; and in what sort of articles, or themes, you would like to see in future issues. Please e-mail your comments to the JSPS Fellows Plaza at

fellowspaza@jps.go.jp
or fax them to us at
+81-3-3263-1854.

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