

JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



FEATURE: JSPS Prize

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On 2 March, a ceremony was held to award the third JSPS Prize. Selected were 25 talented young researchers with excellent records of scientific inquiry and exceptional promise to be trailblazers of scientific research in Japan. The ceremony for the FY2006 Prize was held at The Japan Academy in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino.

Selection of JSPS Prize Awardees

JSPS sent out requests for Prize nominees to 3,028 Japanese research institutions and academic societies, from which it received 275 names in June. Adding the 140 carryover nominees from the prior year, 415 researchers were screened by the staff of

JSPS's Research Center for Science Systems, directed by Dr. Yoji Totsuka, the former director general of KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization). Based on the results, the JSPS Prize Selection Committee, chaired by Dr. Leo Esaki (president of The Science and Technology Promotion Foundation of Ibaraki and of Yokohama College of Pharmacy) and comprising 13 members, made the final decision on the 25 awardees.

Award Ceremony

The ceremony for awarding the JSPS Prize was held in conjunction with the awarding of the Japan Academy Medal. At the ceremony on 2 March, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono offered

an opening message, followed by a report on the selection process from Dr. Esaki. Prof. Ono presented the 25 recipients with a certificate of merit, a medal and purse of ¥1.1 million.

A ceremony was, then, held to confer the Japan Academy Medal on five of the JSPS Prize recipients. First, Japan Academy president Dr. Saburo Nagakura delivered welcoming remarks, after which Dr. Masanori Otsuka, chairman of the Academy's selection committee, explained the vetting process. Then, Dr. Nagakura presented the medal and a commemorative gift to each of the awardees.

Prince Akishino offered remarks, followed by Mr. Akio Yuki, Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, who read a congratulatory message from the minister. To conclude the meeting, a message of appreciation on behalf of the Prize recipients was delivered by Dr. Kenji Ohmori, professor, Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences.

After the ceremony, a celebration party was held. Attended by Prince and Princess Akishino, the Prize recipients, their guests, and the ceremony attendees, an atmosphere conducive to pleasant conversation was enjoyed by all.



JSPS Prize

The JSPS Prize was established in FY 2004 with an objective of helping to raise the level of scientific research in Japan to the world's highest standard. It does this by recognizing at an early stage in their careers young researchers rich in both talent and creativity. The Prize is meant to encourage the young recipients in advancing their work.

The Prize is awarded to Japanese researchers and to overseas researchers who have conducted research at a Japanese research institution for five years or longer. They must have published papers or articles in scientific journals and other publications in Japan and/or abroad, and obtained excellent scientific research achievements. As of 1 April of the Prize year, they must be (1) under 45 years of age and (2) have obtained a doctorate degree (or possess an equivalent level of scientific research expertise).

Remarks by Dr. Leo Esaki at Award Ceremony for 3rd JSPS Prize

As chair of the JSPS Prize Selection Committee, I wish to describe the selection process of the 3rd JSPS Prize and offer some words of encouragement to the young recipients.

In April 2006, invitations to nominate candidates for this year's Prize were sent out to universities, research institutions and related academic societies. Altogether 415 were received for the 3rd JSPS Prize. Preliminary screening was conducted by the program officers of JSPS's Research Center for Science Systems over

an approximately 5-month period. The results were used by the 13-member Prize Selection Committee, which was convened on 9 November to choose the 25 recipients. As there were many excellent candidates, the vetting process was at times impassioned, but ultimately the awardees were selected based on a strict and careful deliberation of their respective research achievements.

To the Prize recipients, who successfully passed this rigorous selection process, I say: "Have confidence in your superb

talents. Use this Prize as a catalyst to challenge anew your capabilities and to expand the margins of your endeavors. I say this to you having myself been so admonished when I was your age."

To be successful, I believe there are three attributes that are essential for a researcher to possess: (1) An ability to get to the heart of the matter, (2) a rich imagination coupled with an ability to discern the essence of things, and (3) the kind of vision or foresight that engenders the creation of new ideas. In addition,

there are “five don’ts” that I would suggest one might observe in giving full expression to his/her creative potential.

Rule number one: Don’t allow yourself to be trapped by your past experiences. If you allow yourself to get caught up in social conventions or circumstances, you will not notice the opportunity for a dramatic leap forward when it presents itself.

Rule number two: Don’t allow yourself to become overly attached to any authority in your field. By becoming closely involved with even a great professor, you risk losing sight of yourself and forfeiting the free spirit of youth.

Rule number three: Don’t hold on to what you don’t need. The information-oriented society facilitates easy access to an enormous amount of information. The brain can be compared to a personal computer; we must constantly be inputting and deleting information, so save only that which is truly vital and relevant to you.

Rule number four: Don’t avoid confrontation. At times, it is necessary to put yourself first and to defend your own position.

Rule number five: Don’t forget your spirit of childhood curiosity. It is a vital component of imagination.

Over ten years ago, I gave these principles to a couple of hundred graduate students attending a Lindau Meeting in Germany. Also there was Prof. Carl Nordling, a member of the Nobel Committee for Physics. He turned around and introduced them in the Swedish academic journal *Physica Scripta* as “Dr. Esaki’s Five Golden Rules for Winning a Nobel Prize.” It was as if receiving a seal of approval.

Needless to say, these five rules are meant for young researchers, such as yourselves. I look forward to each of you pursuing your work with even greater vigor and achieving milestone research results.

FY2006 JSPS Prize Awardees

Humanities and Social Sciences		
Aeka Ishihara	Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio University	“Goethe’s <i>“Buch der Natur”</i> : Reception of Natural Sciences in German Literature during the 18 th & 19 th Centuries”
Atsushi Kajii	Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University	“Microeconomic Theory of Uncertainty and Information”
Takahiro Kondo	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Nagoya University	“Comparative Study on History Education Policies as Factors of International Relations”
Mitsuru Fukue	Curator, Tateyama Museum of Toyama	“The Actual Development of Tateyama Beliefs during the Edo Period”
Koji Mizoguchi	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies, Kyushu University	“Theoretical and Methodological Development of Social Archaeology and Its Applications”
Chikako Esther Watanabe	Associate Professor, Department of International Studies, Osaka Gakuin Junior College	“Narratological Interpretation of the Art of Ancient Mesopotamia”
Mathematics; Physical Sciences; Chemistry; Engineering Sciences		
Takeshi Ohkuma	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University	“Development of Asymmetric Hydrogenation of Ketones”
Kenji Ohmori	Professor, Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences	“Development of Attosecond Coherent Control and Its Applications”
Masashi Kawasaki	Professor, Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University	“Exploration of Oxide Electronics through Perfect Epitaxy”
Zhaomin Hou (China)	Chief Scientist, RIKEN	“Development of New Organo-Rare-Earth-Metal Polymerization Catalysts and Novel Functional Materials”
Toshiyuki Kobayashi	Professor, Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University	“Theory of Lie Groups—Their Infinite Dimensional Representations and Discontinuous Groups”
Naoshi Sugiyama	Professor, Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University	“Theoretical Studies on Cosmic Microwave Background”
Masaaki Tanaka	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	“Ferromagnet-Semiconductor Hybrid Structures and Their Applications to Spin-Electronics”
Noritatsu Tsubaki (Fan Li)	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Toyama	“Development of New Catalytic Processes of Alternative Energy”
Kenji Doya	Principal Investigator, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology	“A Computational Approach to Network and Molecular Mechanisms of the Brain”
Akira Furusawa	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	“Basic Study of Quantum Information Networks”
Biological Sciences; Agricultural Sciences; Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical Sciences		
Takashi Araki	Professor, Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University	“Studies on Regulatory Mechanisms of Flowering in Plants”
So Iwata	David Blow Chair of Biophysics and Director of Centre for Structural Biology, Division of Molecular Biosciences, Imperial College London	“Crystallographic Studies of Membrane Protein Complexes”
Hideki Katagiri	Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University	“Discovery of Novel Inter-organ Communication in Glucose and Energy Homeostasis”
Kazunobu Sawamoto	Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Keio University	“Cellular Proliferation, Differentiation and Migration in Neural Development and Regeneration”
Shinji Tanaka	Associate Professor, Information Center for Medical Sciences, Tokyo Medical and Dental University	“Development of Molecular Therapy for Digestive Cancers Based on Surgical Analysis”
Takahisa Furukawa	Head, Department of Developmental Biology, Osaka Bioscience Institute	“Analysis of the Molecular Mechanisms of Vertebrate Retinal Development”
Atsushi Miyawaki	Group Director, Team Leader, RIKEN	“Multidisciplinary Research and Development of Fluorescent Proteins”
Shinya Yamanaka	Professor, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, Kyoto University	“Generation of Pluripotent Stem Cells by Nuclear Reprogramming”
Goro Yoshizaki	Associate Professor, Faculty of Marine Science, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology	“Development of a Novel Fish-culture Method Using Germ-cell Transplantation”

Titles and affiliations current as of 1 December 2006

— Research Fellowship Division

Humanities and Social Sciences

Walking with Goethe Along My Research Path

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) considered nature to be an open book, one that can be read and should be understood. As a poet, to Goethe nature and poetry were inseparable from each other. He reflected his perception of nature in his treatment of various scientific manifestations, such as the telescope, the hot-air balloon and the rainbow, in his poems and literary works.

In my work *Goethes Buch der Natur. Ein Beispiel der Rezeption naturwissenschaftlicher Erkenntnisse und Methoden in der Literatur seiner Zeit*. [Goethe's Book of Nature: Reception of Natural Sciences in German Literature of His Days] (Würzburg 2005), I surveyed 18th and 19th century developments in Europe focusing especially on the six selected fields of geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, botany and zoology. I investigated Goethe's preoccupation with natural science, his reaction to new developments, and how he translated his experience into literature.

Continuing that study, I am now looking into applied astronomy in Goethe's days from literary-historical and natural-scientific perspectives. Of further interest to me are the concurrent development of meteorology on one hand and the spread of geological surveying on the other.

These days, there is a strong tendency to create interaction between disciplines. New findings often lead to revising old ideas previously considered to be valid knowledge and open interfaces with other disciplines. That's why I think it is very useful to refer to the interplay of ideas in the 18th and 19th century.

This Prize is said to be awarded to scientists who still have the greater part of their careers ahead of them. The path of research work is a difficult one. But as Goethe said, "The extraordinary doesn't happen on a smooth and straightforward trail." So, I am quite prepared to carry on.



Dr. Aeka Ishihara

Present: Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio University
 2002: JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad
 1999: Lecturer, Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio University
 1998: JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow
 1998: Received Ph.D. from University of Cologne
 1994: JSPS Doctoral Course Fellow
 1992: Graduated from Keio University

The Pivotal Role of History Education Policy in International Relations

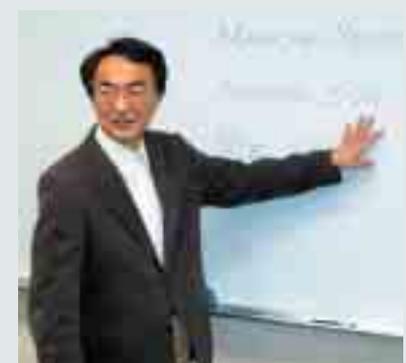
The so-called "historical problem" that Japan has encountered over several postwar decades is one that should be solved through cooperation among scholars in such fields as history, political science, and education from Japan and each East Asian country.

As a researcher in educational science, my primary focus has been on Europe, which gave me insights into ways that historical issues have and can be treated. My current study is aimed at making a contribution to developing more effective methods of problem solving by analyzing various cases of international confrontations over the interpretation of past events and the respective approaches taken to overcome these differences as a manifestation of modern international relations.

Historical imagery taught in public education is usually inseparable from the historical interpretation that governments wish to

project both internally and externally. These images exert significant influence on interstate relations. Therefore, to move the critical process of historical reconciliation forward in Asia, I am investigating the results achieved through history textbook dialogues between two or more European countries revolving around Germany. In analyzing the processes involved in these dialogues, I use a concept of "history policy." I hope my findings will contribute to successful collaboration in Japan-Korea and Japan-China historical research, while also advancing the China-Korea discussion on the historical border issue between them.

Most recently, I have embarked upon a comparative study of similarities in history textbook dialogues in European and Asian countries. It focuses on concepts and practices of political education, which Germany has shown to be a key factor in establishing a history policy for facilitating international history textbook dialogues.



Dr. Takahiro Kondo

Present: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Nagoya University
 1996: Associate Professor, School of Education, Nagoya University
 1993: Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo
 1991: JSPS Doctoral Course Fellow
 1986: Graduated from The University of Tokyo

Light Controls Quantum Waves

The wave nature of matter is at the heart of the quantum world. Although modern civilized societies are deeply indebted to inventions made possible by quantum mechanics, the quantum world is not yet fully understood. Increasing our understanding may enable novel quantum technologies such as bond-selective chemistry and quantum computation. The matter wave is characterized by its amplitude and oscillation timing; the latter called "phase." Manipulation of amplitude and phase is called "coherent control," which is one key to better understanding quantum theory and its novel applications.

The study for which I was awarded the JSPS Prize and Japan Academy Medal is based on the development of ultrahigh-precision coherent control and its applications. One promising strategy to carry out coherent control is to use light to modulate a matter wave with its optical phase. For example, by irradiating a diatomic molecule with an ultrashort optical pulse on the pico- to femto-second time scale (pico: 10^{-12} , femto: 10^{-15}), one can create a quantum state

where a spatially localized atom wave, called a "wave packet (WP)," travels back and forth along the bond axis. Since the optical phase is imprinted on the WP as its quantum phase, manipulating the optical phase allows us to manipulate the WP's quantum phase.

We have so far developed a high-precision WP interferometry (WPI) by tuning the relative quantum phase of the two WP's generated by a pair of ultrashort laser pulses whose relative phase is exquisitely tuned on the attosecond time scale (atto: 10^{-18}). Using this high-precision WPI, we have succeeded in observing and controlling the very moment when two WP's collide and start interfering with each other. We have also succeeded in visualizing such quantum interference with picometer and femtosecond spatiotemporal resolution, representing a detailed picture of matter-wave interference. We will apply our ultrahigh-precision coherent control to gas, liquid, and solid phases in an effort to explore and eventually control what are now various quantum mysteries.



Dr. Kenji Ohmori

Present: Professor, Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences

2001: Associate Professor, Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University

1992: Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo

1987: Graduated from The University of Tokyo

The Mystic Path to Quantum Information Networks

My research subjects are quantum optics and quantum information physics, which are relatively new research fields. Quantum optics is a branch of optics, one in which light is quantized. As you know, the world of quantum mechanics is pretty different from the world we live in. There are a lot of weird things in the QM world. For example, objects are perceived to be in "states" which can be taken as "superpositioned states," meaning that they can exist simultaneously in different places. If we attempt to measure such a quantum state, it will "collapse" into an eigenstate, "eigen" meaning "its own" in German. Moreover, one of the weirdest things in QM is "quantum entanglement," which was called "spooky" by Albert Einstein. If we try to measure one particle in a pair of

entangled particles, the other will shrink into a state that is exactly the same as the measured one.

In our research, we are working to unravel the mystery of quantum entanglement, and have used it to realize "quantum teleportation" and to develop a quantum teleportation network. Quantum teleportation is a method of quantum state transfer that preserves (doesn't collapse) the quantum nature of the input state. As such, it is also a key element in realizing universal quantum information processing. As our research advances, I hope it will ultimately lead us to developing systems for quantum communication and universal quantum information processing.



Dr. Akira Furusawa

Present: Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

1996: Visiting Associate, California Institute of Technology

1991: Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo

1984: Graduated from The University of Tokyo

*Biological Sciences; Agricultural Sciences; Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical Sciences***Membrane Proteins—The Last Frontier in Structural Biology**

Membrane proteins govern several basic cellular processes, including signal transduction, electrical signal generation, molecular transport, and energy conservation. Despite their abundance, not to mention their importance, to date only the unique structures of about 120 membrane proteins have been revealed. My group has been developing X-ray crystallographic techniques for determining membrane protein structures. So far, we have succeeded in elucidating the structures of some key proteins involved in cell respiration, molecular transport, and photosynthesis. We really appreciate having received the JSPS Prize, which recognises the contributions we are striving to make to membrane protein structural biology.

Currently, we are working to establish new methods for determining human membrane proteins. The results of various genome projects have shown that up to 30% of

human proteins occur in cell membranes, and, in fact, over 50% of commercially available drugs target these membrane proteins. However, less than 10 mammalian membrane protein structures have been determined using X-ray crystallography, and as yet no human membrane protein structures have been determined. This is because of a litany of technical difficulties that impede progress in studying these targets. We are attempting to address these problems by combining various technologies, such as new expression systems, crystallisation methods and next-generation synchrotron radiation devices, while utilising the latest results of human genome projects. For this purpose, we have recently started a new project called "ERATO Human Receptor Crystallography" in Kawasaki, Japan, which is supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. We look forward to our new venture bringing us many exciting collaborations with other Japanese scientists.

**Dr. So Iwata**

Present: David Blow Chair of Biophysics and Director of Centre for Structural Biology, Division of Molecular Biosciences, Imperial College London

Concurrently: Research Director, ERATO Iwata Human Receptor Crystallography Project, Japan Science and Technology Agency

1999: Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Uppsala University

1991: JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow

1991: Received Ph.D. from The University of Tokyo

1986: Graduated from The University of Tokyo

Ceremony Held to Celebrate Opening of JSPS Beijing Office

On 20 April, a ceremony was held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Beijing to celebrate the establishment of JSPS's tenth overseas liaison office. The Beijing Office was opened amidst a rush of building construction in preparation for the upcoming summer Olympics to be held in China's capital city. JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and eight officials from JSPS's headquarters in Tokyo came to the ceremony, which was carried out in presence of invited guests from Chinese and Japanese universities and government agencies.

The event began with a greeting by Prof. Ono, who was followed by congratulatory messages from Mr. Soichiro Tanaka, deputy minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Mr. Zhongze Wu, vice minister in charge of Supervisory Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST); Mr. Hiroyasu Izumi, minister, Embassy of Japan in China; and Prof. Yongxiang Lu, president,



Prof. Ono delivering remarks

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), whose message was read by Dr. Jinghua Cao, deputy director, Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS. Next, JSPS Beijing Office director Prof. Hiroshi Fukunishi described the Office's menu of activities, which includes holding China-Japan Science Forums, seminars and convening a summer school for young researchers. Also on slate, he said, are a program for supporting the activities of Japanese universities in China, another for building collaborative networks between JSPS and various universities and research institutes of the two countries, and renewal of the Beijing Office homepage to disseminate

the latest news on the Office's initiatives, JSPS's programs, and activities of Japanese universities and institutes in China.

A reception was held following the ceremony, at which a toast and remarks were offered by Prof. Toshiyuki Sato, chair, Japanese Higher Education Network Association in China (*KIHEIKAI*), followed by congratulatory remarks by representatives of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Peking University, Tohoku University, and Keio University. About 180 people attended the ceremony and reception, both of which were hugely successful in launching the new office.



Program Briefing Given to Chinese Universities

In cooperation with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), the Beijing Office held a meeting to brief representatives of China's primary

universities on the Office's agenda of activities. It was convened on 17 April at Peking University. JSPS Beijing Office director Prof. Hiroshi Fukunishi explained the purpose, objectives and contents of JSPS's international ex-

change activities, placing particular emphasis on its postdoctoral fellowship programs for overseas researchers. Some 100 researchers and graduate students attended the briefing.

— JSPS Beijing Office

Mission of JSPS Beijing Office

By Prof. Hiroshi Fukunishi, New Office Director



Having undergone a 3-year preparation period, the Beijing Office was inaugurated as JSPS's tenth overseas office this April. A number of China's leading scientists have had research experience in Japan under JSPS's postdoctoral and invitation fellowship programs. With the support of these former JSPS fellows and JSPS counterpart institutions in China, the Beijing Office is working to implement a wide range of activities. Chief among them will be the following five initiatives: (1) Strength-

ening collaboration with Chinese universities and counterpart institutions; (2) holding China-Japan science forums, seminars, academic summits, and summer schools for young researchers; (3) supporting activities of Japanese universities in China; (4) building collaborative networks between JSPS and various universities and research institutes of the two countries; and (5) renewing the Beijing Office homepage to disseminate the latest news on the Office's initiatives, JSPS programs, and activities of Japanese universities and institutes in China. As the Office's first director, I am committed to working steadfastly to launch and advance these programs.

By way of self-introduction, I majored in geophysics at The University of Tokyo. After graduating, I conducted re-

search on upper atmosphere and space physics at AT&T Bell Laboratories in the US, National Institute of Polar Research in Japan, and Tohoku University. To investigate auroral phenomena, I participated in four Japanese Antarctic research expeditions, acting as the leader of both winter and summer parties. During the last two years at Tohoku University, I served as a specially appointed assistant to the president for promoting both regional and international contributions by the university. In particular, I was responsible for designing strategies for university initiatives in areas of internationalization, community outreach and public relations. I will try to give full expression to these multifaceted experiences in carrying out the management and operation of the Beijing Office.

Messages from Other New Office Directors

By Prof. Yuko Furukawa, JSPS London Office



The JSPS London Office was established in 1994. Its first director the late Dr. Hiroaki Yanagida and deputy director Mr. Takaaki Iwasa did a marvelous job of launching its initial programs. Since then, each successive director has enhanced and expanded its program menu to a point where the office is now not only recognized throughout the UK, but is greatly expected to play an instrumental role in promoting Anglo-Japanese academic collaboration.

I arrived in London on 22 April 2007. The very next day, the office held a seminar on university-industry coop-

eration with Imperial College London (ICL) and The Japan Society. It was attended by the Duke of Gloucester (cousin of Elizabeth II), Mr. Yoshiji Nogami, Ambassador of Japan to the UK, and ICL Pro Rector Dr. Tidu Maini. Just two days thereafter, the office sponsored another seminar on brain research together with University College London and Keio University. With another rush of activities just around the corner—meetings with The Royal Society, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and other organizations are slated for May—I've found the office's schedule to be packed with a literal flood of events.

To handle this busy workload, the London Office has a staff of seven: The director, deputy director, two international program associates, one advisor on secondary assignment from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and one local

member of the staff. Occupying another desk at the office is a member of Keio University's administrative staff.

In terms of international academic exchange, London is a *Ginza* of the world. The UK, in turn, is a pivotal country within the European Union, Anglo-American Coalition, and the Commonwealth of Nations. As such, it is a place where cascades of information and people converge. The London Office being no exception receives a myriad of visitors hailing from all directions.

With the support of UK partner agencies, UK universities, Japanese universities and associated institutions, and the Japanese Embassy in London, I will strive as the office's new director to create yet another milestone in its program's development. In this endeavor, I ask for your greatly appreciated cooperation and guidance.

By Prof. Hiroshi Sano, JSPS Stockholm Office



My first contact with JSPS was in 1970, when I was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship. Since then I have had a long relationship with JSPS as a recipient of various research funds including a grant-in-aid and a special grant for a millennium project on plant science. In this context, JSPS has helped me to develop my career as a scientist. Now, I have been appointed as the director of JSPS's research and communication center in Stockholm, where I will serve as a liaison officer in

promoting exchange between Japanese and Scandinavian scientists.

"Science" originated from curiosity towards nature; initially people engaged in "scientific research" were not professional. They did not intend to make life better. What they were doing might be called "research for discovery." As time passed, science became a tool to develop technology for improving people's lives. Professional scientists appeared, whose work could be called "research for solving problems." In contemporary society, the former is categorized as basic research and the latter as applied research, both being indispensable. Many countries including Japan have set up national projects to intensively advance both of them. Thus, the role of JSPS is pivotal not only in supporting

scientists but also in creating basic concepts of science in Japan.

The aim of the Stockholm Office is primarily to promote information exchange between Japan and the Scandinavian countries, thereby broadening and strengthening the scientific relationship among them. Practically, this can be accomplished by organizing various meetings through which many young scientists can acquire a shared knowledge of the science and culture of each other's countries. Learning one another's way of scientific thinking, or scientific concepts, is prerequisite to mutual understanding, as well as to long-range planning for scientific research in the international community. I hope that this objective can be realized during my stay at the JSPS Stockholm Office.

ERC Launch Conference Attended by JSPS President

On 27-28 February, an ERC Launch Conference was held at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono flew to Berlin to attend it. The conference was organized to commemorate the European Research Council's establishment on 1 January

as the first pan-European joint funding agency. Within the framework of Germany's presidency of the Council of the European Union, the conference was organized by JSPS's partner agency in Germany, the German Research Foundation (DFG). It was attended by eminent scientists, government officials, funding agency representatives and others from over 30 countries.

ERC: a European player with an international reach

As a member of the third panel, Prof. Ono expressed his views on the topic, describing the stress JSPS places on bottom-up support for basic research advanced upon researchers' own free ideas, and the emphasis it places on fostering young researchers and creating research hubs of a high international standard. He said that JSPS looks forward to working together in partnership with ERC amidst a friendly rivalry between the two organizations.

— Research Cooperation Division



Panel discussions were held on three topics, each of which engendered spirited discussions among the participants.

ERC: a new impulse for top-level research in Europe

ERC: a contribution to society and the knowledge-based economy

Seminar Held with Indian Government's Department of Science and Technology (DST)

A JSPS-DST Asia Academic Seminar was organized by Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) and its Indian counterpart the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), and held at NCL in Pune on 23-28 February.

Leading off the seminar, JSPS executive director Mr. Isao Kiso joined representatives of Tokyo Tech, DST and NCL in offering introductory remarks. They were followed by lectures from

invited experts in fields related to the topic "Molecular and Supramolecular Materials with Designed Functions." The aim of the seminar was to school the some 40 young Asian participants in leading-edge research being advanced in this scientific domain. Poster presentations were conducted by the young researchers, adding to the spirited atmosphere of interaction between them and their senior colleagues, the lecturers.



See the following website for the program of the seminar and abstracts of the lectures: <http://www.ncl-india.org/dst-jsp/>.

— Asian Program Division

Trilateral Workshop Held between Japan, China and Korea

On 5-6 March, a "Trilateral Workshop for S&T Cooperation" was held in the Centennial Hall of Kyushu University School of Medicine. The workshop was sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and organized as a component of JSPS's Strategic Program for Building an Asian Science and Technology Community.

The meeting was convened by way of an agreement at the first Trilateral Korea-Japan-China Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation, held in January to explore

possible avenues of S&T collaboration among the three countries in the environmental and energy fields. It was attended by Mr. Toshiaki Endo, Senior Vice-Minister, MEXT, and Dr. Cha-Dong Kim, Director-General for International S&T Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Korea, and some 30 researchers and administrators. They considered collaborations on seven related research topics, and issued a joint policy statement.

Reflecting this statement in the application guidelines of its international joint research programs (e.g., Asia S&T



Strategic Cooperation Promotion Program—Joint R&D on Common Regional Issues), the Japan side is taking concrete steps to implement trilateral research projects.

— Asian Program Division

Tenth Meeting Held of Japan-India Science Council

On 5-6 March, a meeting of the Japan-India Science Council was held in Tokyo. This was the tenth time for the Council to hold its annual meeting for



the purpose of deliberating ways to promote scientific collaboration between Japan and India. A 7-member Indian delegation, chaired by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, came to Japan to join their Japanese counterparts in the meeting.

At it, the members reviewed the performance of the activities carried out under the FY2006 program and selected new joint project and seminar topics for the next fiscal year. The process spurred an animated exchange

of views on the latest research thrusts.

As 2007 is the Japan-India Friendship Year, particular attention was given to celebrating it by adding two special research projects and one seminar to the FY2007 program line-up. Four joint research projects on earthquakes and tsunami were also added in follow up to the tsunami workshop held in India in 2005.

— Asian Program Division

AAAS Symposium Supported by San Francisco Office

On 15-19 February, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held its annual meeting in San Francisco. During the event, a symposium, titled "National Innovation Strategies in the East Asian Region," was held by MEXT's National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) in cooperation with Chinese and Korean counterpart agencies. On the Chinese side were the National Research Center for Science and Technology for Development (NRCSTD) and the Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IPM-CAS). On the Korean side were the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) and the Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP). The innova-

tion strategies of the three countries were introduced and appraised.

Not only Japan but also China and Korea considered it very meaningful to hold this symposium in collaboration with AAAS, one of America's premier science institutions. Therefore, the JSPS San Francisco Office was more than happy to lend its support to the event.



Attended by representatives of the three East Asian countries and members of AAAS's annual meeting, the symposium provided a platform for exploring the region's future directivity and potentiality. From the very beginning it drew a large audience, with altogether more than 90 people attending. They asked many interesting and probing questions to the speakers.

The reception following the symposium started with a message of greeting by Dr. Christopher T. Hill (professor, George Mason University), who had served as a moderator. It was attended by more than 70 people, who enjoyed conversing and networking with each other.

— JSPS San Francisco Office

First JUNBA General Assembly

On 7 March, the first general assembly of the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) was held at the California Office of Kyushu University. This annual meeting is convened for the purpose of reporting JUNBA's activities over the past year to its members and other attendees, while working to build new networks among them. It was attended by some 50 representatives of universities and corporations, researchers, and others with activities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The meeting began with a message of greeting by JUNBA president Dr. Yoshikatsu Murooka, followed by a briefing on JUNBA's programs and an introduction of its executives and ad-



visors. The new members were announced, after which a report on JUNBA's FY2006 activities was delivered along with its operational plan for the coming fiscal year.

At the accompanying reception, a toast was offered by Mr. Yuji Muranaga, chief executive director, JETRO San Francisco Office, who is a member of

JUNBA's advisory board. Engaging in an active exchange of views and information, the participants enjoyed a meaningful time together at the event.

JUNBA's first official membership drive began in February. By the time this meeting was held just one month later, 48 individuals and six organizations had already registered as new members. Delighted with these initial results, JUNBA would like to keep increasing its membership, expand its network, and ever more vibrantly pursue its agenda in the Bay Area.

For more information about JUNBA, please see its website at: <http://www.junba.org/>.

— JSPS San Francisco Office

Stockholm Office Holds Sixth Science Forum

On 9 March, the JSPS Stockholm Office held the sixth in its series of science fora at the Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institute. Since 2001 this forum has been organized to introduce researchers in Northern European countries to the latest research being advanced in Japan on the frontiers of a chosen field—this year's being "influenza research." This forum between Japan, Sweden and other Nordic countries also had invited participants from the US. Their number filled the hall to its 100-seat capacity.

The forum began with introductory

remarks by the Stockholm Office director Prof. Tsuneko Okazaki and former Karolinska Institute president Prof. Hans Wigzell, followed by presentations from ten speakers.

Influenza research merges epidemiology, medicine and veterinary science in conducting a range of activities from basic research to elucidate causes and epidemiological studies to the development of vaccines. From the viewpoint of universities, national laboratories and corporations in Japan, Sweden and America combining forces in undertaking influenza research, presenta-



tions were given on such subjects as ways to control avian flu and to suppress pandemics and on the results of wide epidemiological surveys. Questions from the floor spawned intense discussions, which often flowed over into the breaks between presentations.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

Second Conference for Bridging Japan and the UK

On 2 March, the JSPS London Office held the second in its series of "Conferences for Bridging Japan and the UK." Its purpose was to provide a platform for interchange among Japanese researchers who are doing work at universities and other public research



institutions in the UK. This year's meeting was attended by 36 researchers ranging in career stages from junior to senior and specialized in fields spanning the natural sciences to the humanities.

The meeting began with a follow-up discussion on last year's topic of Japan's S&T systems, followed by self-introductions from each of the participants. Next, everybody engaged in a free discussion of topics of mutual interest, which included differences in research and daily life between the UK and Japan, various career path options,

providing opportunities for British students to do research in Japan, and creating a job-support system for researchers returning to Japan from overseas.

In response to a questionnaire survey taken after the meeting, most of the participants said they found the conference to be a meaningful experience, especially as it gave them a rare opportunity to meet and talk in depth with other Japanese researchers working abroad in various fields.

— JSPS London Office

Aichi Prefectural Ichinomiya High School

Date: 3 March

Dr. Ghanashyam Sharma (India)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Biodiversity Conservation in the Sacred Landscapes of the Eastern Himalayas"



Shizuoka Prefectural Iwata Minami High School

Date: 16 February

Dr. Tito Akindede (UK)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Science: A Planet without Boundaries"



Aomori Prefectural Hachinohe Kita Senior High School

Date: 7 March

Dr. Ahmed E. Hegab (Egypt)

Host institution: Tohoku University

Title: "Stem Cell and Lung Regenerative Therapy"



Shizuoka Prefectural Kakegawa Nishi Senior High School

Date: 9 March

Dr. Marie-aude Measson

(France)

Host institution: Osaka University

Title: "How to Change Matter Properties by Low Temperature and High Pressure?"



Shotoku Gakuen High School (Tokyo)

Date: 6 February

Dr. Chamini L. Mendis

(Australia)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science

Title: "Through the Looking Glass: Understanding the Nano World of Magnesium Alloys—On the Path to Making Cars Shed Weight"



Fukui Prefectural Fujishima Senior High School



Date: 16 February

Dr. Jason P. McCormick

(USA)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Learning Science in America and Keeping Buildings Standing"



Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Dr. Tao Wang (China)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "An Introduction to Earthquake Engineering"



Date: 8 February

Dr. Mark Bowen (UK)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Understanding Brownian Motion with Mathematics"

Fukuoka Prefectural Kokura High School

Date: 6 February

Dr. Thimma R. Thatiparti (India)

Host institution: Kyushu University

Title: "Polymers in Daily Life"



Date: 13 February

Dr. Muhammad Saqib

(Pakistan)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Pakistan and My Research"



Message from Former JSPS Fellow (8)

My Life as a Scientist Shifted in Japan

I received my doctorate in biochemistry in 1996, after having traveled abroad on a few occasions to enhance my scientific grounding. Having learned about the JSPS postdoctoral fellowship, I felt it would offer a nice opportunity so I decided to apply. My host appreciated my joint research proposal and accepted my request to submit an application for the fellowship on my behalf. At the end of December 1998, I was pleased to receive a letter of invitation from JSPS and embarked upon what was to be a wonderful research experience with Prof. Kounosuke Fujita at Hiroshima University.

Given this opportunity, I shifted the focus of my research from biochemistry to plant molecular biology, with an aim to serving the hungry people of the world by elevating the essential amino acids in crops using a molecular approach. The fellowship gave me the chance to work energetically on this challenge with colleagues in the host laboratory. I was lucky to be accepted as an integral part of not only their scientific but also their social environment. Hence, the fellowship gave me the opportunity to make long-enduring friendships. Staying in close contact with my host, we have recently been discussing the possibility of coauthoring some articles on issues of mutual interest.

I must reiterate that it was the JSPS fellowship that vaulted me onto my present, very rewarding career path and helped me to advance my initial research in plant biotechnology. After having worked in Japan for five years, I returned to my university in Cairo, where I started to create a

good school for both undergrads and postgrads in my field. Continuing to collaborate with Japanese researchers, we hope to open a scientific channel between Egypt and Japan in the near future.

Inside my university, I have displayed several posters to announce JSPS's fellowships and encourage young scientists to apply for them. I have also held some meetings with my colleagues to explain how to submit applications through a host researcher in Japan, and describe the opportunities that the fellowships offer them to advance their research activities.

Two years ago, I was asked by the director of the JSPS Research Station in Cairo to help set up an Egypt alumni association with an eye to enhancing collaboration and supporting exchange between young scientists in the two countries. As chair of the association, I have heartily recommended JSPS to support partnering initiatives by former fellows from this region.

Last but not least, I must say how very



Dr. Hany A. El-Shemy

Professor, Biochemistry Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University

Chair, JSPS Alumni Association in Egypt

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, 1999-2001

much my family, who accompanied me during my fellowship, enjoyed their stay in Japan. They still communicate with friends they made there, and look forward to a future chance to see them again.



During Dr. El-Shemy's stay in Japan as a JSPS fellow



Dr. El-Shemy with his colleagues

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 +81-3-3263-1854. Please indicate whether you are a current or former JSPS fellow.



Introducing JSPS Overseas Offices: Cairo



By Prof. Sadao Sakai, Office Director

The JSPS Cairo Research Station is in a section of the city called Zamalek, situated on an island in the south-to-north running Nile River. Although Cairo has an over 1,400-year history with Zamalek at its center, the island wasn't urbanized until about 100 years ago. Theretofore, all but a small part of it had been farmland. The reason for its sparse habitation is said to have been because the Nile would overflow its banks and inundate a large area of the island



Zamalek from across the Nile

every year. Now protected from flooding by the Aswan High Dam built 800 kilometers upstream from Cairo in 1971, the JSPS office is located within a 5-story apartment house of a 90-year vintage. Except for the frequent failure of its plumbing and electrical systems, the place has a captivating character about it.

With its 1952 revolution, Egypt became a standard bearer for national liberation and non-alliance movement, engendering a cascade of new diplomatic relationships. As a result, China and other Asian and African countries established embassies there. Adjacent to the office are located the embassies of Libya, Morocco, Greece, North Korea and Romania.

The road outside is lined with trees bearing rouge blossoms. Akin to dogwood, the Japanese call them "Egyptian *sakura*." A kind of locust tree also blooms in fiery red and yellow flowers. This lush tree cover provides pleasant shade. Undaunted by scads of cars and trash, strolling along the Nile has become an early morning routine

for me. Fortunately, almost every day of the year is blessed with sunny skies in Cairo. The little rain that does fall rarely exceeds ten times a year. Three or four sandstorms, called *khamsin*, hit Cairo every spring.

The Cairo office was established in 1984. Previously, JSPS offices had been opened for short periods in Iran and Turkey before settling in Egypt. The office's first director was Dr. Tsugitaka Sato (professor, Waseda University); I am its 22nd. Dr. Sato is now leading a large-scale project on Islamic Area Studies. The tenth director, Dr. Hiroshi Kato (professor, Hitotsubashi University) is conducting a JSPS-supported project titled "Advancing Needs-driven Area Research—The Middle East amidst Asia." Both of them came to Cairo in March to work on their projects. Of late, there have been a lot of Japanese researchers coming here, testifying to the upsurge of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies in Japan.

Events

London Office

Large Scale Symposium

"Mediating Risk in Japan: The State, Market, Societal Matrix" and "Mediating Risk in East Asia"

Wortley Hall and The University of Sheffield, Wortley and Sheffield, 13-14 July 2007

Recruitments

For FY 2007

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers

Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 6-10 August 2007

For FY 2008

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Standard)

JSPS Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan (Short/Long-term)

Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 3-7 September 2007

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

JSPS Fellows Plaza Website

JSPS Fellows Plaza is continually in the process of updating its website, which provides information for present, past and prospective JSPS fellows. Please give us a visit at:

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/>

You'll find pages on "How to Apply," "Experiences and Messages from JSPS Fellows," "Program Guidelines," "e-Orientation," "Find Nearby Fellows," "Science Dialogue," and "Alumni Associations." The site also carries current and back copies of our newsletter "JSPS Quarterly" and the booklet *Life in Japan for Foreign Researchers*.

If you have any opinions or impressions you wish to share regarding our website, please contact us at the JSPS Fellows Plaza.

— JSPS Fellows Plaza



Hailing from Denmark, Dr. Kim Richard Larsen has been doing research under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship at the Kitakyusyu Museum of Natural History & Human History since April 2006. He was introduced to his host, Dr. Michitaka Shimomura, by a colleague in his personal network. Dr. Shimomura praises Dr. Larsen, saying that he is a researcher of outstanding ability, who is working diligently to advance his studies under the fellowship. After his 2-year tenure ends, Dr. Larsen plans to continue to pursue his career in science as a lecturer or curator.

What is the nature of your research under the JSPS fellowship?

As a marine biologist my project runs along two lines: traditional taxonomy and ecology of a group of small benthic Crustaceans. The diversity of these animals around Japan is very high but very sparsely studied, mainly due to lack of funding. I hope that my project will help redeem that situation. I am also trying to create more funding for taxonomic studies by coupling the taxonomic investigation with an ecological experiment assessing the value of these animals as bio-indicator species for habitat recovery.

That's a fascinating field of research. Could you tell us a little more about your work?

Among the Crustaceans, my research is mainly focused on tanaids. Using a microscope, I dissect them and observe the shape of their legs and other parts, which I draw in order to identify differences between species and to classify them. As tanaids are extremely small creatures, measuring about 3 millimeters in length, dissecting them is precise, exhaustive work. As it entails making very accurate drawings and annotating them with comments, descriptions or descriptive analyses to preclude misclassifications, the work is highly detailed and re-

quires intense concentration. That said, I believe it to be very important work as it helps to generate new knowledge related to biodiversity. I have so far published two papers on some new species of tanaids I discovered around Okinawa, and now I'm busy preparing for a conference that will be held here in June.

How did you become interested in your research field?

During my master's program, which focused on faunistic research, I became aware of the great shortcomings in the current level of invertebrate taxonomy. It struck me as highly unfortunate and a waste of good science that ecological and faunistic researchers had to do their work without being able to identify the species used in their studies. This is particularly problematic in biodiversity studies, which are next to useless if not based on solid taxonomical knowledge.

Why did you choose Japan to pursue your research?

The deficiency in taxonomical knowledge of Japanese fauna made Japan an interesting place to study. When so little is known about these animals around Japan, it increases the chances of making plenty of new discoveries. I have to admit that the high level of financial support (both personal and for research) provided by the JSPS also makes Japan an interesting place to work.

What other merits are there to conducting research in Japan?

The merits of conducting scientific research in Japan under the JSPS fellowship are that it allows for more experimental (thereby risky) projects, which might be difficult to obtain funding for in the EU or the US. The fellow is given a high degree of independence and the research funding is better than most, if not all, other places.

What do you usually do outside of your research?

I sleep, eat, exercise, and go out with friends. Pretty much the same things I would be doing any other place, although I seem to spend an unreasonably long time in sushi bars. As Kitakyushu is near the sea, it has good makings for sushi. I'm particularly fond of mackerel and yellowtail. Their names *saba* and *buri* were among the first



Dr. Kim Richard Larsen

Ph.D. (Marine Biology, Taxonomy and Systematics), Macquarie University, Australia, 2000

M.Sc. (Marine Biology), University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 1994

B.Sc. (Biology), University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 1991

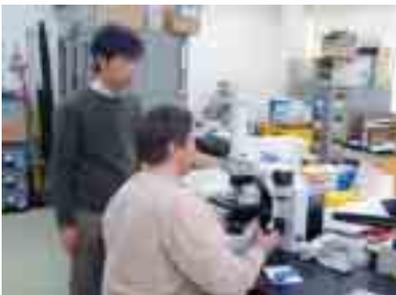
Japanese words I learned when I came here. I also enjoy viewing the cherry blossoms in April. I have to admit, however, that my research does not permit a lot of time out of the laboratory.

Before coming to Japan, what kind of image of Japan did you have? Has it changed after coming here?

I had heard that one had to be very careful not to insult anybody in Japan. I was rather worried about this before coming here, as I am not reputed to be a very diplomatic person. I was afraid I might inadvertently insult somebody due to a cultural difference. Happily this problem turned out to be almost non-existing. My Japanese colleagues are of course aware that I am not accustomed to Japanese culture. They don't take offence if I should behave less correctly, like for example, forgetting to change slippers when going into the bathroom.

You have given a lecture under the JSPS Science Dialogue Program, haven't you? What do you think of the program?

Last December, I gave an English lecture, entitled "Biological Science: The Work and the Wonders," to high school students in Kagoshima. I think this kind of program is extremely valuable in the long term. In fact, I am kind of surprised that initiatives like this are not compulsory in all research programs. The biggest problem in science is a lack of funding, and we scientists are largely at fault. How can we expect to get funding from the community if people are not aware of what we are doing nor do they know why it is important? We have to



Dr. Larsen with his host Dr. Shimomura

inform the community about these things. If we cannot do so in a reasonable manner, then we ought to rethink our research.

What advice would you give someone about to begin a JSPS fellowship?

Be prepared to spend a lot of time initially learning Japanese. It is a hard lan-

guage to learn and one should not expect English to be spoken widely outside academic circles. Also be prepared for difficult and expensive library services. Specialized literature can be hard, expensive and time-consuming to obtain in Japan, particularly if the fellow is not based at a major university.

One of the really good things about working in Japan is that security is a non-issue. As Japan is one of the safest places on earth, female researchers or researchers with children will have little to worry about here security-wise.

Interview by JSPS Fellows Plaza

Introducing Japan: Kitakyushu

JSPS fellow Dr. Kim Larsen has favored us with an article on his impressions of the city where he is conducting his research at the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History.

Kitakyushu is located on the northern tip of Kyushu Island, the southernmost of Japan's main islands. As the gateway to Honshu, Kitakyushu is connected to Shimonoseki by both a bridge and a tunnel as well as numerous ferries and water taxis.

Kitakyushu is a fairly large town (a little under a million inhabitants) by western standards. This size provides all the comforts and entertainments of city life on one side, while on the other, does not give an impression of swallowing up the individual like the huge metropolises of Tokyo and Osaka.

Kitakyushu is the birthplace of Japan's heavy industries, and was the chosen site for the Nippon Steel Mill. Nowadays, Kitakyushu is in a state of transition towards attracting more high-tech and international industries. Despite its reputation as an industrial city, Kitakyushu provides easy access to nature. Within a 15-minute bus ride from the center of the city (Kokura Station), one can reach nature trails leading up into the surrounding hill country. Among other attractions are the large limestone caves and the Kokura Castle. One of the most popular pastimes is to stroll along the river in the center of the city. It is also possible to take a cable car from Yahata up to

the 622-meter summit of Mt. Sarakura, where the views of the city and harbor are spectacular. There is also a hiking trail up the mountain for the more energetic visitors. Popular particularly with the younger audience are the large dinosaur skeleton collection at the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History and the Space World amusement park with its daredevil rollercoaster rides.

Early spring and autumn are the best seasons to visit Kitakyushu, as summer is hot and humid. Snow may fall in winter but will not last throughout the day. Kitakyushu's surrounding mountains provide good shelter from typhoons. Earthquakes are also very rare here.

Kitakyushu is famous for its seafood, which is mostly consumed as sushi in one of the many sushi bars. Particularly popular are the *kaiten* sushi bars with their revolving conveyers that constantly tempt the guest with a never-ending stream of fresh fish, prawns and other shellfish, not to mention squid and octopus. Grilled and fried fish dishes are also popular, and a deep-fried meal of the poisonous-if-not-properly-prepared puffer fish in one of the many small restaurants at Moji-ko harbor is a 'must try' experience for the intrepid visitor.

In addition, there is a small island in

the Kanmon Straits that is known for a famous samurai duel. The local hero Kojiro Sasaki had a sword fight with the more famous Musashi Miyamoto (the guy with the wooden sword) but lost. Local historians are inclined to suggest that foul play was involved.



Dinosaurs at Natural History Museum



At kaiten sushi bar



JSPS Alumni Associations

At present, alumni associations with homepages have been established in Germany, the UK, Sweden, France, the US and India.

JSPS Club (German alumni association)

<http://www.jsps-club.de/>

UK JSPS Alumni Association

<http://www.jsps.org/alumniassociation/aboutus/index.html>

JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden

<http://www.jsps-sto.com/site.aspx?id=548>

French Alumni Association

<http://assoc-jsps.u-strasbg.fr/>

US JSPS Fellows Alumni Association

http://www.jspsusa.org/Alumni_association/alumni.htm

Indian JSPS Alumni Club

<http://www.indianjspsalumni.org/>

JSPS Fellows Plaza's Alumni Association homepage:
http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/20_alumni.html



Cover photo:
Komagata Lanterns

Paper lanterns enhance the nocturnal
ambience of a summer festival.

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 of our newsletters, we would like to hear from you. We would also like to know your impressions of the JSPS Fellows Plaza webpage. Please e-mail your comments to the JSPS Fellows Plaza at

fellowspiazza@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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