

# JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



## FEATURE: FY2007 Grants Launch Global COE Program

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No. **21**  
2007  
Autumn

## Background

It is imperative that Japanese universities carry out their education and research programs on a par with top-level universities around the world. This will require that the country's national, public and private universities improve their competitive capacities by introducing third-part assessments of their programs, and that they vie with each other in enhancing the excellence of those programs. As part of the government's effort to advance university reform in this direction, in FY 2002 the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) inaugurated the "21<sup>st</sup> Century COE Program" to support the establishment of world-class education and research hubs within Japanese universities with an eye to raising their competitiveness to the highest world level. Since then, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century COE Program has worked well to advance university reform, foster talented young researchers and pioneer new academic fields, while elevating the standard of university research.

Based on the recommendation in a September 2005 report on graduate education issued by MEXT's Central Council for Education and on the government's third S&T Basic Plan, enacted in March 2006, it was decided that another step needed to be taken to meet the growing challenges of advancing globalization and info-proliferation—that a post-21<sup>st</sup> Century COE Program initiative would be required to foster researchers with an even higher level of international capabilities.

Accordingly, MEXT established the "Global COE Program," which was launched from FY 2007. This new program is designed to create world-leading centers of education and research excellence in new and/or interdisciplinary fields, which will work to dramatically strengthen the university's function of educating young researchers capable of playing active international roles in various sectors of society including industry.

JSPS has formed a Global COE Program Committee within its organization to screen grant applications and assess funded projects. It is assisted in carrying out these functions by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, and the Japan University Accreditation Association.

## Objectives

The Global COE Program provides prioritized funding support for the purpose of establishing within graduate schools of Japanese universities internationally attuned education and research centers that perform at the apex of

global excellence. The objective is to strengthen and enhance the education and research functions of graduate programs, while building within them a research infrastructure of the highest world standard upon which to foster highly creative young researchers who will go on to become world leaders in their respective fields.

## Review Policy

Applications are submitted for center-building programs within doctoral-level graduate departments of Japanese national, public and private universities. They must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funding.

- 1) A plan must be formulated for establishing an internationally excellent education/research base within the university's doctoral program. It should embody a future scheme for developing the university reflecting its unique institutional character and be given powerful instruments for implementing the program under a management framework led by the university president.
- 2) After the five years of funding ends under the Global COE Program, the university's COE should be able to continue operation as an internationally excellent education/research base, carrying out its activities independently without interruption.
- 3) The COE program should not take the form of a research project, but should be implemented as an initiative to build an education/research base that functions to foster highly capable young researchers. To do this, the center must be able to advance original, cutting-edge work by building a world-standard research infrastructure upon which to pioneer novel and innovative scientific domains. The plan must also embody a scheme for future program expansion.

Two other criteria must be met under the following conditions:

- 1) If the proposed COE was previously established under the "21<sup>st</sup> Century COE Program," it must have already achieved the expected results under that framework.
- 2) If the applying university wishes to implement its COE program in cooperation with other institutes (internal and/or external), it must formulate a clear concept of both its own and the proposed COE's future development, and show why cooperation with other institutes is necessary to realizing that concept.

## FY2007 Selections

JSPS received 281 applications from national, public and private universities throughout Japan by the February deadline. They were in this year's five designed categories of life sciences; chemistry, material sciences; information sciences, electrical and electronic sciences; humanities; and interdisciplinary, combined fields, and new disciplines. Category-specific subcommittees, operating under the Program Committee, conducted a comprehensive set of document reviews, hearings, and panel reviews on the applications.

To ensure that screening under the document review process was both fair and specialized, two reviewers were assigned to review each application and decide which ones would be forwarded to the hearing stage. Altogether, 514 Japanese researchers served as document reviewers this year. Those applications selected for hearings were furthermore mailed to overseas researchers to critique the international competitiveness of their proposed programs. Two overseas reviewers were assigned to each application. Their evaluations were used as reference in the hearing process. Altogether, the overseas reviewers numbered 139.

Based on the results of this screening process, the Program Committee, which met on 7 June, selected 63 proposals for funding, and reported the outcome of the selection process to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

A budget of ¥15.8 billion has been allocated by the Ministry to operate these projects in FY 2007.

### Universities with Most FY2007 Awards

Universities	Selections
Osaka University	7
The University of Tokyo	6
Kyoto University	6
Tohoku University	5
Tokyo Institute of Technology	5
Waseda University	4
Hokkaido University	3
Nagoya University	3
Keio University	3
Kyushu University	2
Ritsumeikan University	2

### FY2007 Applications and Selections by Categories

	Life Sciences		Chemistry, Material Sciences		Information Sciences, Electrical and Electronic Sciences		Humanities		Interdisciplinary, Combined Fields, New Disciplines		Total	
	Universities	Applications	Universities	Applications	Universities	Applications	Universities	Applications	Universities	Applications	Universities	Applications
Applications	46	55	37	45	33	37	28	39	71	105	111	281
Selections	13	13	10	13	10	13	11	12	12	12	28	63

Note: As there are cases where one university applied for grants in multiple categories, the university figures in the "Total" column may differ from the sum of those in the horizontal column.

## Events

### Nairobi Research Station

Joint Symposium, Makerere University, Kyoto University and JSPS  
 "Re-Contextualizing Self/Other Issues: Toward a HUMANICS in Africa"  
 Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 2-3 October 2007

### Stockholm Office

JSPS-SU-NAIST Colloquium  
 "Frontiers of Plant Biotechnology"  
 Stockholm University, Stockholm, 4 October 2007

### Strasbourg Office

The 6<sup>th</sup> JSPS Forum  
 "Chemical and Physical Nanobiology for Medicine"  
 University of Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, 23 November 2007

## Recruitments

### For FY 2007

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers  
 For 6<sup>th</sup> recruitment, application deadline from host institution: 9-12 October 2007

### For FY 2008

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

For 1<sup>st</sup> recruitment, application deadline from host institution: 9-12 October 2007

For 2<sup>nd</sup> recruitment, application deadline from host institution: 26-30 November 2007

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Standard)

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

Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 1-9 May 2008

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

## Interim Report Issued on Program “Strategic Fund for Establishing International Headquarters in Universities”

In April, JSPS issued an interim report titled “Innovative Models for Promoting the Internationalization of Japanese Universities.” It compiled activities carried out by way of JSPS-supported initiatives to establish internationalization models under the program “Strategic Fund for Establishing International Headquarters in Universities” by pilot universities chosen by MEXT in FY 2005.

Based on nine criteria for evaluating good examples of university internationalization (listed in Table 1), the report described the current state and prevailing issues relative to university internationalization in Japan. It provided examples of significant activities being undertaken by the 20 pilot universities. It also offered an analysis of the program’s implementation and made recommendations on how to enhance it, including through government intervention. Furthermore, it described a JSPS survey taken on the activities of overseas universities; and utilizing these results and information gathered by JSPS’s overseas offices, it also reported on the internationalization ini-

**Table 1 Project Evaluation Criteria**

1	Organization and governance
2	Goal setting, action plan, and evaluation system
3	Acquisition of external funds for international education and research
4	Participation in international collaborations and consortiums
5	Expansion of international activities based on specific transnational research projects
6	Training and securing administrators and staffs
7	Improving of services and support for foreign researchers
8	Expanding overseas study and research opportunities for young Japanese researchers
9	Establishing and operating overseas bases

tiatives and trends of overseas universities and governments.

JSPS is continuing its work on developing good internationalization models for Japanese universities so that the fruits of this program may be spread beyond the pilot institutions to other universities throughout Japan.

### **What is the Strategic Fund for Establishing International Headquarters in Universities?**

It is a scheduled 5-year program established in FY 2005 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in response to escalating global competition for knowledge assets. It seeks to create internationally competitive research environments in Japanese universities that are

able to attract talented researchers from both at home and abroad to them.

The 20 pilot universities selected by MEXT receive funding over a 5-year period from the time they launch their respective projects to advance campus-wide international activities by strengthening the functions of their international strategy headquarters. (These universities and the names of their international strategy headquarters are listed in Table 2.) While supporting the universities’ projects, JSPS and the Japan International Science and Technology Exchange Center (JISTEC) conduct comprehensive analyses of their implementations. Concurrently, JSPS is working to develop internationalization models worthy of emulation by other Japanese universities.

— Research Cooperation Division

**Table 2 20 Selected Pilot Institutions**

Institutions	Their strategy headquarters
Hokkaido University	Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development (HUISD)
Tohoku University	Global Operations Centre
The University of Tokyo	Division for International Relations
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	Office for International Academic Strategy (OFIAS)
Tokyo Institute of Technology	International Planning Office
Hitotsubashi University	International Strategy Headquarters
Niigata University	International Academic Support Office (IASO)
Nagoya University	Nagoya University International Exchange and Cooperation Headquarters
Kyoto University	The Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR)
Osaka University	International Affairs Board
Kobe University	Office for the Promotion of International Exchange, Kobe University (OPIE-KU)
Tottori University	Headquarters for Planning and Promoting International Strategies
Hiroshima University	International Strategy Head Office
Kyushu University	Organization for the Planning and Coordination of International Affairs
Nagasaki University	Center for International Collaborative Research, Nagasaki University (CICORN)
The University of Aizu	Center for Strategy of International Programs (CSIP)
Keio University	Organization for Global Initiatives
Tokai University, Kyushu Tokai University, Hokkaido Tokai University	Head Office of International Affairs, Tokai University (HIAT)
Waseda University	Office of International Research Promotion (IRP)
National Institutes of Natural Sciences	International Strategy Headquarters

## FY2007 Reporting Meeting for Superlative Postdoctoral Fellows

Whereas all doctoral and postdoctoral fellows under JSPS’s program Research Fellowships for Young Scientists must submit written reports at the end of each fiscal year, superlative postdoctoral (SPD) fellows are furthermore required to make an oral presentation on the progress of their research to frontline researchers of JSPS’s Research Center for Science Systems at the 1-year junc-

ture of their tenures. On 28 June, a meeting was convened for that purpose.

The object of these reporting meetings is also for the SPD fellows to receive advice and guidance on how to proceed with their research, while expanding their interdisciplinary perspectives through the opportunity the meetings accord them to interact with mentors

and colleagues of other fields.

This year, all but one of the twelve SPD fellows selected in FY 2006 participated in the reporting meeting.

The meeting opened with remarks by Prof. Shiro Ishii, deputy director of JSPS’s Research Center for Science Systems. He described the special na-

ture of the SPD fellowship program and the purpose of the reporting meeting while voicing the very high expectations held in the future activities of the

SPD Fellows Participating in Reporting Meeting  
(In order of their presentations)

SPD Fellows	Host Institutions
Dr. Ryoya Ikuta	The University of Tokyo
Dr. Tsuyoshi Iizuka	The University of Tokyo
Dr. Masumi Yamada	Tokyo Women's Medical University
Dr. Satomi Kawamura (Yamaguchi)	Hokkaido University
Dr. Takashi Yamada	Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music
Dr. Kazuya Fukuda	Osaka University
Dr. Tasuku Igarashi	Osaka University
Dr. Hiroaki Kato	Shimane University
Dr. Yutaka Sato	The University of Tokyo
Dr. Osami Shoji	Nagoya University
Dr. Masakazu Yamazaki	High Energy Accelerator Research Organization

fellows in attendance. Then, using PowerPoint slides or other visual aids, the fellows described what they had achieved over the past year and where the next stage of their research is intended to take them. During the ensuing Q&A sessions, researchers in other fields asked questions while specialists in the subject field offered critiques and comments—all in a relaxed atmosphere that spurred vigorous discussions which in many cases ran beyond the allotted time frames.

After the presentations ended, fellows who wished them were given individual consultations with the Center's senior program officers in their respective fields. Through them, they received



expert advice on ways to advance their research along the path ahead. Following the consultations, a convivial gathering was held. Delving back into the contents of their presentations, the fellows engaged each other in discussions and they exchanged views across topical lines with executives of JSPS and program officers of the Research Center for Science Systems.

— Research Fellowship Division

## JSPS President Attends G8-HORCs Meeting

The Heads of Research Councils of G8 Countries (G8-HORCs) was established in 1979 based on a proposal by Prof. Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, then president of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Japan joined the group from its sixth meeting in 1987.

At the meeting, representatives of leading research-promotion agencies in the eight countries (i.e., Japan, the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Russia) discuss matters of common interest such as science and technology policy and S&T-related global issues.



Participation is limited to the heads of the member agencies. Unfettered by protocol or formality, a free exchange of views is carried out among them.

This 2007 meeting was hosted by the

National Science Foundation in the US. It was held on 6-7 May in Cape Cod. The meeting gave JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono a valuable opportunity to exchange views with NSF director Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., DFG president Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner, CNRS director general Dr. Arnold Migus, and the other distinguished members of the group.

Next year's G8-HORCs meeting is scheduled to be held in Japan in mid-May.

—Research Cooperation Division

## Japan-Korea Joint Committee Meeting Held

On 24 May, the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Japan-Korea Joint Committee for Basic Scientific Research was held in the city of Kanazawa, Japan. It was cochaired by



Prof. Keitaro Yoshihara, fellow, Toyota Physical & Chemical Research Institute, on the Japan side and Dr. Myung-Hee Chung, professor, Seoul National University, on the Korean side. Established via an agreement between JSPS and the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF), this meeting has been held annually since 1991.

This time, the performance of FY2006 joint research activities and seminars

was reviewed based on reports submitted by the project leaders. New FY2007 projects were discussed and selected in the numbers shown below. In the process, an active discussion was advanced on future Japan-Korea scientific cooperation programs.

	Applications	Selections
Joint Research Projects	65	33
Seminars	15	11

—Asian Program Division

## International Forum Held with NPG Nature Asia-Pacific

Together with NPG Nature Asia-Pacific (NPG = Nature Publishing Group), JSPS cosponsored an international forum on the theme "NPG Nature

Asia-Pacific Networks: Promoting Excellence in Research." It was held on 6 June at the Four Seasons Hotel in Tokyo. Celebrating the twentieth anni-

versary of NPG Nature Asia-Pacific, the forum was aimed at strengthening networks among scientists in the Asia-Pacific region. Attending it were

more than 200 people including front-line researchers, who served as lecturers and panelists, a cadre of young Asian researchers selected by the NPG editors, and a number of young Japanese researchers who have received the JSPS Prize or a JSPS Superlative Postdoctoral Fellowship.

The forum began with introductory remarks by NPG Nature Asia-Pacific CEO Dr. David Swinbanks, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, and *Nature* editor in chief Dr. Philip Campbell, followed by keynote addresses from RIKEN president Dr. Ryoji Noyori and University of Chicago professor Dr. Ian



Foster. Dr. Noyori spoke on the Asia-originated international scientific periodical *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and international collaboration initiatives being taken at RIKEN, while Dr. Foster focused on grid computing and service-oriented science in stressing the need for stronger networking within the Asia-Pacific region so as to strengthen its presence as the third pillar in a research community with North America and Europe.

In the morning's general session, presentations were given by Dr. Edison Liu, executive director, Genome Institute of Singapore; Dr. Hiroshi Komiyama, president, The University of Tokyo; and Dr. Chak-sing Lau, professor, The University of Hong Kong. They spoke about Asia-Pacific network-building efforts being carried out in their respective fields and institutions. The afternoon featured four parallel sessions on web

technology and networking infrastructures, stem cells, molecular technology, and nanotechnology. The young participants joined the distinguished lecturers in an active discussion of issues related to international networking within the Asia-Pacific and of concrete ways to promote it in their various research fields.

In sum, the forum offered a good opportunity to elevate international awareness of scientific progress made over recent years within the Asia-Pacific, while also heightening a common perception among leading researchers in the region of a need for effective international networking.

For pictures and additional information about the forum, please see the following NPG webpage: <http://www.natureasia.com/japan/conferences/networking/>

— Asian Program Division

## Workshop on Natural Disasters Held with LIPI

On 20 June, JSPS and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) held a joint workshop entitled "Japan-Indonesia Research Collaboration on Natural Disasters." Convened in Jakarta, the workshop was also supported by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). It assembled some 50 Indonesian and Japanese researchers and practitioners engaged in fields of natural disaster and disaster prevention. While expanding the breadth and depth of their working networks, the workshop also helped to raise awareness in the two countries of the important role played by bilateral collaboration in improving disaster preparedness and damage mitigation.

The meeting opened with remarks by Indonesian representative Dr. Hery Harjono, who introduced joint research projects being conducted via JSPS-LIPI

collaboration on earthquakes and tsunami. A message from Dr. Kusmayanto Kadiman, State Minister for Research and Technology, was read by Dr. Idwan Suhardi, Deputy to the Ministry for Utilization and Dissemination of S&T, followed by remarks from Mr. Minoru Hakamagi, Senior Deputy Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT; Mr. Isao Kiso, Executive Director, JSPS; and Dr. Umar Anggara Jenie, Chairman, LIPI.

A keynote address was given by Ms. Ir. Sri Woro B. Harijono, Chairman of Badan Meteorologi and Geofisika (BMG), on the new Indonesia tsunami warning



system. Three sessions followed on (1) JSPS-LIPI joint research projects, (2) international joint projects funded by MEXT, and (3) disaster prevention projects in Indonesia supported by JAXA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In these sessions, presentations and reports were given on a total of 15 projects.

The workshop offered the participants an ideal opportunity to exchange views and become better familiar with each other's work while, on a broader plain, reaffirming the need for interagency cooperation in carrying out both research and projects, which heretofore have tended to be conducted independently. It is hoped that this reaffirmation will lead to greater international support for disaster prevention projects and research activities implemented between Indonesia and Japan in the future.

— Asian Program Division

## Joint Staff Meeting Held with National Research Council of Thailand

On 9 July, a 6-member delegation, led by NRCT secretary general Prof. Ahnond Bunyaratvej, came to Tokyo to hold a joint staff meeting with JSPS executives. The meeting began with intro-

ductory remarks by JSPS inspector general Dr. Hirochika Inoue, who extended a hearty welcome to the officials of the National Research Council of Thailand and thanked them for their

long-enduring cooperation over the 30 years of partnership between the two agencies. He remarked that JSPS's establishment of a liaison office in Bangkok is indicative of the high value

that JSPS places on its exchange with Thailand. Saying that ever-greater collaboration between the two countries will be important as Thailand continues to undergo dazzling socioeconomic development, Dr. Inoue appealed for even closer cooperation between JSPS and NRCT in the future.

During the meeting, a review was made of the states of ongoing bilateral programs, the RONPAKU (Dissertation PhD) Program, and the Core University Program. New program initiatives by

JSPS were introduced. They included Asian Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs) (tentative title) and HOPE Meetings. The Thai delegation said they would be happy to assist JSPS in implementing these programs by recommending participants and other means.

After the meeting, the delegation made a tour to Tokyo University's Institute of Oriental Culture, Yokohama National University and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology,



where they observed the progress being made in bilateral research projects and enjoyed a vigorous exchange of views with researchers in cutting-edge fields.

— Asian Program Division

## Twelfth Japanese-German Symposium Held on Climate Change

The JSPS Bonn Office and the JSPS Club (German alumni association) co-organize a Japanese-German Symposium every year. Focusing on themes in scientific domains in which the two countries are achieving leading-edge results, these symposia are aimed at promoting bilateral collaboration by allowing Japanese and German specialists in the subject field to report and discuss their pioneering work with each other.

The twelfth symposium in this series was held on the theme “A Universal Challenge: Climate Change” on 11-12 May. Its venue was the historical town of Bamberg in the state of Bavaria.

In recent years, acute international focus has been placed on climate change as an issue affecting the future of the entire human race. In January of this year, a summit was held between the heads of state of Japan and Germany, in which they committed to placing high priority on climate change in German-Japanese collaboration, including under a post-Kyoto international framework from 2013. Climate change was again the theme of the G8 Summit held in Germany in June. Given this compelling background, the holding of the 12<sup>th</sup> Japanese-German Symposium on climate change was very timely and, with over 200 participants, highly successful as well.

Three speakers were invited from each Japan and Germany. From Japan, they were Dr. Satoru Ikeuchi, professor, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, who is doing research on both cosmophysics and the environment; Dr. Harukazu Iguchi, associate professor, National Institute for Fusion Science, who is working on energy issues; and Dr. Takuji Nakamura, associate professor, Kyoto University, who is a specialist in atmospheric observation. Invited from the German side were Dr. Harry Lehmann, Federal Environment Agency; Dr. Andreas Behrendt, University of Hohenheim; and Prof. Dr. Udo E. Simonis, Social Science Research Center Berlin.

The six speakers delivered presentations on their research results in a manner that was both interesting and easy for researchers of other fields to understand. Led by the cochairs, Prof. Dr. György Széll, University of Osnabrück,

and Dr. Arnulf Jäger-Waldau, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, the participants, many of whom have had experience in joint German-Japanese research, engaged the speakers in vigorous inquiry and discussion, frequently running the sessions overtime.

Among the German speakers, Dr. Behrendt had conducted joint research with Dr. Nakamura under a JSPS fellowship, and Prof. Dr. Simonis, now a highly distinguished social scientist, had done research in the 1960s at The University of Tokyo under one of JSPS's first international exchange programs. Over long years, his deep understanding and strong support for Japan has been highly valued.

The proceedings of the symposium are scheduled to be broadcast on dpa (Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH), which provides nationwide coverage of news on education and research.

Following the symposium, the JSPS Club held its annual meeting, at which it reported that it now has over 200 regular members. As the JSPS Bonn Office supports the autonomous activities of the JSPS Club, the staff was very pleased to hear of the success experienced by the Club.

— JSPS Bonn Office



## Science Forum on “Laser and Nanotechnology” Held by Stockholm Office

From the time of its establishment in 2001, the JSPS Stockholm Office has been holding an annual Science Forum to disseminate information on top-level

research being conducted in Japan to the Nordic countries while receiving reports on cutting-edge research trends being advanced in that region.

In the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, rapid headway was made in optical science through the application of laser technology. This led to milestone ad-

vances in not only physics and chemistry but also biology, medicine and engineering as well. As the pace of this research has accelerated into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in ways that exert an ever-wider impact on society, this year's Science Forum chose as its theme "Laser and Nanotechnology." Venued in Kista, it was held on 18 June.

Stockholm Office director Prof. Hiroshi Sano's opening remarks were followed by a presentation from JSPS executive director Dr. Kenichi Iga, who is also a professor emeritus of Tokyo Institute of Technology. After giving an overview of JSPS's main activities, Dr. Iga described the research environment at the time he invented the vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL) and its subsequent applications to data communica-



Dr. Iga giving presentation

tion and various other technologies. In the following session, Tokyo Metropolitan University president Prof. Jun-ichi Nishizawa spoke about the various research achievements made possible by light-emitting diodes (LEDs), while Tokyo Institute of Technology professor Dr. Fumio Koyama elaborated the many application achievements of VCSELs. From the Swedish side, presentations were given on

optical wireless communications and VCSEL applications and on nanowire innovations using nanotechnologies.

In Kista, where the Forum was held, researchers have started up many venture companies in the area of fiberoptical communication based on the results of research exchange and collaboration with Japan. As one such entrepreneur, Dr. Björn Broberg wound up the meeting by speaking on the importance of research cooperation between Sweden and Japan.

Building upon the success of this Forum, the Stockholm Office would like to hold a seminar with researchers from Sweden and other Northern European countries on a similarly suitable topic.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## Symposium Held in UK on "Risk in East Asia"

On 13-14 July, the JSPS London Office cosponsored a symposium titled "Mediating Risk in East Asia" with the National Institute of Japanese Studies (NIJS), The University of Sheffield, and Doshisha University. Held this year in Sheffield, it was the thirteenth in this series of symposia on risk management in East Asia, with particular focus on China and Japan. To analyze risk factors relevant to the peoples of these countries, 27 researchers were invited from the UK, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and the US to give presentations and hold probing discussions.

On the first day and morning of the

second, a closed workshop was held in which the researchers set in motion and advanced discussions on risks inherent within Japan across a wide range of areas including finance, energy, labor, social security, immigration, welfare and consumption.

The afternoon was dedicated to an open symposium. Kicked off with remarks from NIJS director Prof. Glenn D. Hook, JSPS International Program director Mr. Hiromichi Matsuo, and Doshisha University president Prof. Eiji Hatta, the symposium featured presentations by highly authoritative scholars on such topics as "growing signs of poverty and social exclusion"

and "socio-educational mobility risks" in Japan and "occupational health hazards" and "genetically modified crop risks" in China. Active rounds of opinion exchange were held between the panelists and the some 60 attendees, who included researchers, students and government administrators.

— JSPS London Office



## San Francisco Office Holds Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows

On 27 July, the JSPS San Francisco Office held its seventh "Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows." These meetings are meant to promote cross-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers laboring in the US. While serving to deepen the friendly relationships among



them, the meetings also provide the researchers with an opportunity to build working networks. Participating in this year's gathering were 22 researchers, many of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. Still others were invited from among Japanese researchers currently residing in the US.

In the meeting, San Francisco Office director Prof. Seishi Takeda offered a toast to kick off the confab among the participants. In a pleasantly relaxed

atmosphere, they engaged each other in conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the US. Time was also set aside for the participants to introduce themselves and briefly describe their research work. Giving them a context to delve deeper into each other's work, this further energized their discussions, which continued on even after Prof. Takeda gave his closing remarks. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the US.

— JSPS San Francisco Office



## Fukui Prefectural Fujishima Senior High School

Date: 14 June

**Dr. Om P. Khatri** (India)  
Host institution: Kyoto University  
Title: "Nano-scale Science and Technology: An Overview"



## Shizuoka Prefectural Iwata Minami High School

Date: 5 July

**Dr. Victor Kimberg** (Russia)  
Host institution: National Institutes of Natural Sciences  
Title: "The Interaction of Light and Matter"



## Ikeda High School (Kagoshima)

Date: 9 July

**Dr. Amgad S. A. Salama** (Canada)  
Host institution: Kyushu University  
Title: "Groundwater Contamination and Modeling"



**Dr. Michele Guarnieri** (Italy)  
Host institution: Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Title: "From Snakes to Humanitarian Assistance Robots"

## Kumamoto Daini High School

Date: 18 July

**Dr. Chunxue Liu** (China)  
Host institution: Kumamoto University  
Title: "Visualization of Earth Environment and Geology"



## Shotoku Gakuen High School (Tokyo)

Date: 22 May

**Dr. Tuomas A. Lonnberg** (Finland)  
Host institution: The University of Tokyo  
Title: "Development of a High Throughput System for Identifying MicroRNA Target Genes"



## Miyazaki Kita High School

Date: 18 July

**Dr. Grigor T. Zehirov** (Bulgaria)  
Host institution: Kagoshima University  
Title: "Nitrogen Fixation, Benefit for Legume Plants" "Bulgaria, Tradition and Culture"



## Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Date: 29 May

**Dr. Bettina E. Scheu** (Germany)  
Host institution: The University of Tokyo  
Title: "Volcanoes in the Lab"



## Ritsumeikan Senior High School (Kyoto)

Date: 17 July

**Dr. Dong-Wook Han** (Korea)  
Host institution: Kyoto University  
Title: "Preservation of Cells and Tissues Using Green Tea Polyphenols"



Date: 12 June  
**Dr. Mathias Laurin** (France)  
Host institution: The University of Tokyo  
Title: "An Introduction to Catalysis and Surface Science"

## Saitama Prefectural Warabi High School



Date: 16 May

**Dr. Zeen Huang** (China)  
Host institution: Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute  
Title: "Natural Products with Various Biological Activities from Trees"

Date: 17 July

**Dr. Alexandre R. Yersin** (Switzerland)  
Host institution: Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Title: "Measuring Interaction between Molecules with the Atomic Force Microscope"





# JSPS Summer Program



Attended by 109 young pre- and postdoctoral researchers from the US, UK, France, Germany and Canada, the JSPS Summer Program, cosponsored by The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Sokendai), was held over a 2-month period from 12 June to 22 August.



Featuring a research internship at a host institution, the program began with a one-week orientation held at the Shonan Village Center in the seaside resort town of Hayama. At it, the fellows received special lectures, gave poster presentations, attended classes in Japanese language learning, engaged in Japanese culture activities, and experienced Japanese living through homestay with a Japanese family. After the orientation, the young researchers went their separate ways to their respective host institutions. Their summer internships afforded them an experience upon which to consider coming back to Japan to do research at future junctures in their careers. On the day before the program ended, the participants reassembled to present reports on their summer research activities.

For more detailed information on the JSPS Summer Program, please see our website: <http://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-summer/>

— Overseas Fellowship Division

## Research Activities

The centerpiece of the JSPS Summer Program is the fellows' internship at a host research institution, where they take part in research activities with frontline Japanese researchers in their

respective fields. The following are comments offered by two of the fellows on their research experiences.

### Ms. Elena Tenenbaum

(PhD student, Brown University) at The University of Tokyo  
Her host: Dr. Kazuo Hiraki

renowned developmental researcher, as well as the input of lab members from a variety of fields has greatly enhanced the caliber of my research. The experience I have gained in conducting research and living in Japan these last two months has solidified my desire to pursue international collaboration in the future. The experience and future opportunities made possible by this program are tremendous."



Ms. Tenenbaum with her host

"Thanks to the generous efforts of JSPS, NSF and Dr. Kazuo Hiraki at Tokyo University, I have had the opportunity to join an extraordinary lab this summer. Dr. Hiraki's guidance and expertise as a

### Mr. Richard Threfall

(PhD student, University of Liverpool) at The University of Tokyo  
His host: Dr. Takeshi Wada

"To come to Japan and be able to take part in the JSPS programme was such a great experience for me. It was both enjoyable and challenging to undertake research in a different environment whilst trying to

learn Japanese too! My time in Japan was beneficial not just on a personal level of having made new friends and seen new places, but it has also opened my eyes to the opportunities and possibilities of science in Japan. Our lab in England will definitely be keen to maintain the ties and friendships developed here and we're looking forward to a fruitful future of co-operation and collaboration."



Mr. Threfall and his host to right

## Washington, DC

### Washington Office Holds Orientation for Summer Fellows

On 2-3 April, the JSPS Washington Office assisted the National Science Foundation (NSF) in holding the orientation for its "2007 East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes" program. Under it, about 150

graduate students from US universities would be dispatched to Japan, China, Korea, Australia and other Asia-Pacific countries for summer training and intern-ing. Sixty-five of the attendees were slated

to participate in the JSPS Summer Program. The Washington Office held two specially tailored sessions for them.

The first day's session was held on the

theme “Living and Doing Research in Japan.” Lectures were given on how the students should prepare themselves to do research in Japan by Dr. Machi Dilworth, director-elect, NSF Tokyo Regional Office, and Dr. Akira Masaïke, director, JSPS



Washington Office. They were followed by the office's deputy director, Mr. Hideshi Kobayashi, who explained the summer schedule and allowance arrangement, after which the students were given time to ask questions.

In the second day's session, Mr. Kobayashi gave a lesson on Japanese language fundamentals and taught the students some basic phrases that would be useful to them in their daily lives. He was followed by Mr. Thet Win, who spoke about Japanese culture and customs from the

perspective of his own experience. The session was not a mere listening exercise, but a dynamically interactive one in which the students put their newly acquired Japanese to the test, and those with some prior knowledge of Japanese tutored others around them.

The 2-day orientation is thought to have been very meaningful in helping the Japan-bound students in overcoming any anxiety they may have had about living and doing research in Japan.

— JSPS Washington Office

## Bonn

### Summer Program Pre-Departure Orientation Held by Bonn Office

On 24 May, the JSPS Bonn Office held a pre-departure orientation for young German researchers selected to participate in this year's JSPS Summer Program. The meeting was meant to help optimize the research experience they were about to have in Japan, while giving them an early chance to meet and get acquainted with their fellow travelers. It also served as an opportunity to brief the young researchers on cooperative programs carried out between JSPS and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which had recruited them for the Summer Program in Japan.

The meeting opened with remarks by Bonn Office director Prof. Yasuo Tanaka, followed by DAAD administrator Ms. Karin Möller, who described various research exchange

programs operated between Germany and Japan. After introducing themselves, the participants received a briefing from the staff of the Bonn Office on the Summer Program. Then, Dr. Marie-Ann Betschinger, University of Münster, and Dr. Christian Vogel, University of Duisburg-Essen, who had both participated in last year's Summer Program, gave animated talks on their experiences using an array of pictures snapped while in Japan. They fielded a volley of questions from the Japan-bound fellows, who possessed both anticipations and anxieties about going to do research in a country perceived to be not only geographically but also culturally distant. Many of their questions had to do with life and customs in Japan and with the research culture in Japanese universities. The answers and explanations they received

from the two past fellows, both being of their own background and generation, were very helpful in allaying concerns and kindling expectations.

JSPS Club chair Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhous, then, introduced the participants to the activities of the German alumni association and its role in helping German researchers who have returned from Japan sustain long-enduring ties with the Japanese research community.

The meeting was followed by a dinner reception attended by the new and past fellows and office staffs. Delving into Japanese culture and customs, conversations among the participants went on late into the evening.

— JSPS Bonn Office

## London

### Pre-Departure Seminar and Alumni Evening in UK

On 14 May, the JSPS London Office joined forces with the British Council Japan in holding a pre-departure seminar for British graduate students and junior researchers going to Japan under the JSPS Summer Program and JSPS's standard and short-term postdoctoral fellowships. Twenty-eight Japan-bound scholars attended the meeting held at the headquarters of the British Council in London. The seminar provided the new JSPS fellows with advanced information on research and life in Japan and introduced them to programs they can join after returning home to continue their collaborative activities with Japanese colleagues.

At the meeting, JSPS executive director Dr. Kenichi Iga introduced the participants to Japan's research environment. He was followed by briefings from representatives of the JSPS London Office, UK JSPS Alumni Association, British Council Japan, The Royal Society, The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Following the seminar, the group of new fellows repaired to the School of Oriental and African Studies, where the alumni association held an Alumni Fellowship Evening. The event gave them an excel-



lent opportunity to converse face-to-face with former fellows who have considerable firsthand experience in and knowledge on doing cooperative research in Japan.

— JSPS London Office

## Message from Former JSPS Fellow (9)

### JSPS Dramatically Enhanced My Scientific Career

I received my doctorate in Animal Breeding and Genetics in 2000 from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. In March 2001, I was invited to spend six months at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) of the University of New England (UNE) in Australia. In Australia, I was researching Hereford beef cattle breeding schemes incorporating direct and indirect measures of feed intake. One of the breeding objectives that I evaluated was specifically targeted for the Japanese beef market. Since the liberalization of beef import restrictions in 1991, there has been growing interest in the United States, Australia and Canada in exporting beef to Japan. This scenario spurred my interest in spending some time at a university in Japan. I wanted to contribute to increased beef production in Japan. Having learned about the JSPS postdoctoral fellowship, I embarked on searching for a suitable host in Japan.

In August 2002, I attended the World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production held in Montpellier, France. At it, I met Prof. Yoshiyuki Sasaki of Kyoto University and expressed my desire to apply for a JSPS fellowship with him as my host. He was very supportive and encouraged me to apply. I promised to apply for the fellowship but I could not do so immediately because of other issues at my university in Kenya. In 2004, based on my experiences in Australia, I wrote a concept note on the evaluation of advanced Japanese beef cattle breeding schemes incorporating performance testing for Blood Serum Insulin-Like Growth Factor I and carcass traits, and sent it to Prof. Hirooaki Hirooka of Kyoto University. He appreciated my note and we developed a joint research proposal; he submitted an application for a JSPS fellowship on my behalf. In August 2004, I was pleased to receive a letter of invitation from JSPS. I traveled

to Japan in November 2004 to embark on what would be a career-enhancing experience at Kyoto University.

The research environment in Japan was very conducive to the type of work that I was doing. The work combined both field visits and computer simulations to test alternative breeding schemes for their genetic and economic efficiency. In this type of studies, one must engage in extensive collaborations as they require inputting parameters that describe the actual situation as accurately as possible. I was able to obtain such parameters through the healthy interactions I enjoyed with my host and Japanese colleagues. In fact, my host made himself available to me on short notice and in most cases without formal appointments. Prof. Hirooka made sure that I was an integral part of their scientific environment. This gave me an opportunity to learn and experience other fields in animal sciences in which I had not yet done extensive work. My Japanese colleagues were very supportive, and I coauthored a number of publications with them.

My host also made sure that I was part of their social environment. I remember with nostalgia the social activities I participated in and visits I made to some landmarks. He introduced me to delicious Japanese cuisine, most unforgettably beef dishes such as *shabu shabu* and *sukiyaki*. Naturally, I made them part of my diet in Japan as my research was aimed at adapting beef cattle to the Japanese palate.

In December 2005 while still a JSPS fellow, I was promoted to Associate Professor at my home institution, Egerton University. I must say that the research environment in Japan contributed to this promotion. The environment allowed me to author or coauthor several



**Prof. Alexander K. Kahi**

Chair, Department of Animal Sciences, Egerton University

Member of Executive Committee, Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, 2004-2006

publications in 2005. The JSPS fellowship program supported almost every aspect of my life as a researcher. With it, I was able to travel to international conferences to present my results. For example, in August 2006, I gave a presentation at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production in Brazil, a country that I had never dreamt of visiting.

When my fellowship ended in November 2006, I returned to Egerton University in Kenya. In January 2007, I was appointed Chair of Animal Sciences. In addition to these duties, I lecture, supervise postgraduate students, and lead a number of research projects. I have made it my responsibility to inform other researchers about JSPS by displaying posters announcing JSPS's fellowships. I am currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association. Formed in July 2007, this association promotes scientific exchange and research collaboration between Japan and Eastern Africa countries.

I remain in close contact with my host and other Japanese colleagues and continue to coauthor articles in animal sciences. I hope to work with Japanese researchers in opening up scientific channel between Kenya and Japan in animal science research. In fact, the JSPS fellowship is still helping to link animal scientists in Kenya and Japan. Currently, Prof. Hirooka and I are putting together an application under the JSPS AA Science Platform Program for a research project that will further enhance scientific exchange between researchers of the two countries.



With colleagues at social function at Kyoto University



Standing next to Japanese black bull in Shimane Prefecture



# Introducing JSPS Overseas Offices: Nairobi

## By Mr. Itsuhiro Hazama, Office Director

The JSPS Nairobi Research Station was established in 1965 to promote international scientific cooperation in Kenya and other African countries south of the Sahara.

Currently, the office staff comprises one African secretary and myself. Though there are only two of us to run the office, the number of researchers and specialists who visit us has been increasing each year, reaching over 900 in FY 2006.

Our main functions are to (1) provide a research environment conducive to Japanese and African researchers exchanging information and views; (2) assist Japanese researchers in obtaining research permits

from the governments of Kenya and other African nations; (3) provide a communication channel for research collaboration; and (4) assist in obtaining topographical and climatological data managed by the Kenya government.

The office also organizes "JSPS Seminars." Since its establishment, the office has held 155 of them. Last year, for example, one was held with the National Museums of Kenya, others with French and English research institutes, and another with the Japanese embassy. In May, we convened an international scientific conference in cooperation with an academic society in the natural sciences. In October, we are scheduled to hold a symposium with a university in Uganda and the overseas offices



of two Japanese universities.

In these ways, the Nairobi Research Station is working with a Japanese government agency and the African offices of Japanese universities to form scientific networks and establish systems for receiving visiting researchers in this region of Africa. In short, we serve as a liaison hub for expanding the overseas activities of Japanese universities and other research organizations.

## Recent Visitors to JSPS (May-July 2007)

### Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria Visits JSPS

On 3 July, Mr. Daniel Valtchev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria, paid a courtesy visit to JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono.



He was accompanied by a 11-member delegation that included Ms. Vanya Dobrova, Deputy Minister of Education and Science; Ms. Valeria Nikolova, Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Education and Science; Prof. Nikola Sabotinov, Vice President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; Prof. Dr. Anelia Klisarova, Rector of Medical University Varna; Prof. Dr. Boyka Tsigova, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Prof. Dr. Sava Grozdev, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bulgarian Academy of

Sciences; and H. E. Mr. Acad. Blagovest Sendov, Bulgarian Ambassador to Japan.

The Republic of Bulgaria had joined the European Union as a member nation in January of this year. The discussion between Prof. Ono and Mr. Valtchev and his delegation confirmed a mutual commitment at this important juncture for Japan and Bulgaria to work together in promoting greater bilateral scientific exchange.

— Research Cooperation Division

### Eminent Scientists Visit JSPS

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science carries out the program "JSPS Award for Eminent Scientists" to support Japan visits by Nobel laureates and other highly distinguished researchers for the purpose of contributing to scientific advancement nationwide. During this period, the following two eminent scientists visiting Japan under the program came to JSPS to engage in conversation with JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono.

18 May: **Dr. Pierre Marcel Paul Toubert** emeritus professor, Collège de France (1975 Prix International Galileo Galilei)

30 May: **Dr. Tsung-Dao Lee** professor, Columbia University (1957 Nobel Prize in Physics)

First providing an overview of the state of research and education in France, Dr. Toubert discussed related topics with Prof. Ono, after which he engaged in an exchange of views with Research Center for Science Systems deputy director Prof. Shiro Ishii and senior program officers of the Center's Humanities and Social Sciences Research Group.



Dr. Toubert

Dr. Lee talked to Prof. Ono about the research lab he had inherited as is from Dr. Hideki Yukawa when he retired from his professorship at Columbia University and his encounters with RIKEN president Dr. Ryoji Noyori. They also discussed a broad range of topics related to S&T cooperation among Japan, the US and China.

— Overseas Fellowship Division



Dr. Lee (second from left)

Hailing from South Korea, Dr. Dong-Ha Nam has been doing research under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship since April 2006 at the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University. He first came to Japan in 2003 to go through a doctoral course at the same university. While a graduate student there, he conducted research on environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology under Prof. Shinsuke Tanabe in the Center for Marine Environmental Studies. His current host Prof. Hisato Iwata became acquainted with Dr. Nam at the Center. Impressed with his sincerity and diligence, he decided to host Dr. Nam as a JSPS postdoctoral fellow.

*On what are you conducting your research under the JSPS fellowship?*

In my research, I am using metallothionein genes to assess the risk of heavy metal contamination in wild avian species. ("Metallothionein" is an amino acid-based protein that transports metals such as copper, zinc, and cadmium within the body.) Certain aquatic birds accumulate high levels of non-essential elements in their tissues and organs without any clinical signs, implying that metallothioneins detoxify heavy metals by binding to them and are thus a possibly effective physiological mechanism in regulating against metal toxicosis. I am attempting to elucidate this mechanism in target avian species.

*How did you become interested in this research subject?*

From childhood, I have been fascinated with animals, particularly seabirds.



Dr. Nam in his lab

When I got to college, I therefore decided to do animal research. I was especially curious as to why birds living in the same environment accumulated different levels of toxins in their bodies. I thought the reason for this may be linked to the function of the protein metallothionein, two types of which are present in each bird. As there had been little work done in this regard, I set myself to the task by undertaking research on wild birds.

*Why did you choose Japan or your laboratory to pursue your research?*

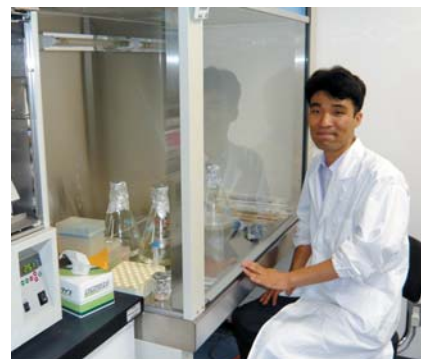
My host laboratory at Ehime University has a long history of achievements in ecotoxicological research conducted on a global scale. It is also well known for its investigations of target genes that respond to chemical exposure and for elucidating molecular mechanisms that determine species-related sensitivity to chemically induced effects. These merits of the laboratory are what drew me to Japan to pursue my research.

*What do you usually do in your off-hours?*

I love to play soccer, so I formed the Himata Soccer Team. "Himata" is the name of the field at Ehime University. Being an international team, it has on it more than 50 foreigners from 28 countries. We all live in Matsuyama. I enjoy sharing time with the many friends I have made during soccer practice. Coming from all over the world, they help me enjoy and fulfill my life in Japan. (If you'd like to learn more about the team, please see our webpage: <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/himatasoccer/>)

*Your Japanese is very good. How did you learn it?*

I first began studying Japanese when I entered the doctoral program at Ehime University in 2003. Actually, the only thing I've found difficult about living in Japan has been learning Japanese. The language has a lot of depth to it, so the more I study Japanese, the more difficult I realize that it



### Dr. Dong-Ha Nam

Ph.D. (Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology), Ehime University, Japan, 2006

M.Sc. (Environmental Ecology), Kyung Hee University, Korea, 2002

B.Sc. (Environmental Science), Kyung Hee University, Korea, 2000

is to master. I am still taking a course in Japanese and will continue to study it while I remain in Japan.

*Do you have any plans for what you will do after your fellowship?*

I have not yet decided. However, I have long been concerned about the impact of pollutants on wild birds, including the effect of chemicals on their reproductive biology. I am doing research on the conservation of wintering migrants (especially globally-threatened vultures) in Korea, and over the next year will be working on a separate project in Japan. I am very interested in doing collaborative work on wintering migrants in the future, and would be happy to continue my research career in Japan.

*What advice would you give to new post-doctoral fellows?*

Quite simply, I would tell them that being able to do research in Japan with the support of the JSPS fellowship is an extremely valuable opportunity, one that they should take maximum advantage of while they are here.

### 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 Japan: Matsuyama

**Matsuyama is the capital city of Ehime Prefecture and the home of Dr. Dong-Ha Nam's research institute at Ehime University.**

Matsuyama is the largest city of Shikoku, which is located across the Inland Sea and is one of Japan's four main islands. Matsuyama is known as both a center of culture and education, hosting as it does Ehime University. Historically, Matsuyama is an old castle town, preserving many traditional structures and settings. Matsuyama Castle, built in the early 1600s, is one of Japan's most exquisitely preserved castles.



Shikoku's largest Matsuyama Castle

The Dogo Spa also has old inns and bathhouses that are considered treasures of traditional architecture. Its drum is beat at 6 a.m. and then again at noon and in the evening in the traditional manner of an old spa where people would lodge and soak themselves in the hot tubs several times a



Main bathhouse at Dogo Spa

day to heal what ailed them. This drumbeat is counted among the 100 traditional sounds of Japan that people want most to preserve.

About a kilometer east of the spa is the ancient Ishite Temple. It is particularly interesting because it is the 51<sup>st</sup> temple on the 88-temple route that pilgrims still walk around the island. Yes, around the island of Shikoku—a 1,200-kilometer trek over jagged mountains and endless stretches of rugged coastline. One can only imagine how good the pilgrims must feel to rest their weary bodies in the Dogo Spa at this juncture of their ordeal, with *only* 37 temples left to go.

On the literary side of Matsuyama's culture is the Shikido, a museum built as a replica of the house of Shiki Masaoka (1867-1902), who was born in the city and became a famous master of *haiku* poetry in

the Meiji Period. Then there is the famous novelist Natsume Soseki (1867-1916). The city has claimed him as its own, though he only lived here a year teaching at Matsuyama Middle School. (A JSPS fellow who goes on to win a Nobel Prize after doing a year or two research stint at Ehime University may well be treated likewise.) Translations of some of Soseki's classic works, such as *Botchan* and *I Am a Cat*, permanently adorn the shelves of bookstores around Japan.

If you're going to come to Matsuyama, now—autumn—is an ideal time of the year: The persimmons in season here were loved by Shiki Masaoka, who gave them a special place in his poetry.



### 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](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](http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/20_alumni.html)

### 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





### Cover photo:

Impressionistic view of autumn pampas grass against a harvest moon

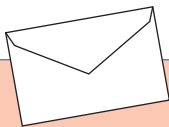
## About JSPS

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

[fellowsplaza@jps.go.jp](mailto:fellowsplaza@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/](http://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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