

JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



FEATURE:

- JSPS Executive Director Dr. Kobayashi Wins Nobel Prize
- Annual Meeting Held of STS *forum*

TOPICS

- Dr. Makoto Kobayashi Wins 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics 2
- Annual Meeting Held of STS *forum* 4
- 2008 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology 6
- Program for Promoting Social Science Research Enters New Phase 7
- French-Japanese Scientific Forum Held in Tokyo 7
- Multidisciplinary ULP-JSPS Joint Forum Held 7
- Cairo Symposium Held in Search of Cancer Remedies 8
- Bonn Office Holds JSPS Abend 8
- Stockholm Colloquium Held on Environmental Sustainability 9
- Public Symposium on Jomon Culture Held with UC Berkeley 10
- Metals in Synthesis Symposium Held at University of Bath 10
- New FURUSATO Awards Launched by JSPS London Office 11
- Asian Science Seminar Held in China 12
- Recent Visitors to JSPS 13
- Science Dialogue 14
- Message from Former JSPS Fellow 15

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Dr. Makoto Kobayashi, Executive Director of JSPS, Wins 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics

Message from JSPS President Prof. Motoyuki Ono

On behalf of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), I wish to extend our hearty congratulations to this year's Japan-born researchers who have been awarded the Nobel Prize in recognition of their breakthrough research achievements: Dr. Yoichiro Nambu, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; Dr. Makoto Kobayashi, Executive Director, JSPS; and Dr. Toshihide Maskawa, Professor, Kyoto Sangyo University, who each received the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics, and Dr. Osamu Shimomura, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, who won the Prize in Chemistry.

It has been six years since Japanese researchers last received a Nobel Prize in fields of science: with Dr. Masatoshi Koshihara, Honorary Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo, having won it in Physics in 2002 and Mr. Koichi Tanaka, Fellow of Shimadzu Corp., having won it the same year in Chemistry. The wonderful success of this year's four laureates engenders an uplifted spirit of confidence and aspiration among the Japanese people.

In the field of physics, Dr. Nambu discovered the mechanism of spontaneous broken symmetry in subatomic physics while Drs. Kobayashi and Maskawa discovered the origin of the broken symmetry that predicts the existence of at least three families of quarks in nature. These highly appraised achievements have set leapfrog milestones in the advancement of particle physics. In chemistry, Dr. Shimomura was recognized for his discovery of green fluorescent protein (GFP), now used to illuminate cell development and other microscopic processes in living organisms.



Prof. Ono and Dr. Kobayashi

Giving worldwide recognition to the accomplishments of Japanese scientists, this year's awards testify to the high level of Japan's research, in which our nation as a whole can take great pride.

Supporting research driven by the intellectual curiosity and the free ideas of researchers across a wide spectrum of basic research fields, JSPS seeks to advance scientific research in Japan while using the results achieved to contribute to human wellbeing by expanding the body of knowledge assets shared among the world's peoples.

Interview with Dr. Makoto Kobayashi, JSPS Executive Director, on His View of Basic Research in Japan and Other Topics

Congratulations on winning the Nobel Prize in Physics. What did you think when you were told that you had won the Prize?

I was taken by complete surprise.

You have been awarded the Nobel Prize for your theory published in 1973 under the title "CP-Violation in the Renormalizable Theory of Weak Interaction." At that time, your theory of CP violation, which broke the symmetrical law of physics, must have been a rather bold prediction. How sure were you that your hypothesis was correct?

It had already been shown that four quarks are not enough to explain CP violation asymmetry, so that there had to be some new particles, we were quite confident. That there are six quarks, however, we were not that confident:

Among the several logical possibilities, we found it to be the most interesting.

I imagine that the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) and other Japanese research institutions must have played a significant role in experimentally proving the Kobayashi-Maskawa Theory.

Many research institutions around the world have conducted experiments to prove the theory of broken CP symmetry. What I think deserves special mention are the experiments carried out by KEK researchers using the B-factory accelerator. By producing the world's highest beam luminosity, they were able to actually observe CP violation taking place in B-meson decays.

I believe that this year's Nobel Prizes in Physics

testify once again to the importance of basic research. What's your feeling about this?

Even when successful, basic research often does not find immediate applications. Without it, however, it is not possible for science and technology to move forward. Basic research should be viewed from a long-term span, not judged based on its application value. Who knows what it is that inspires new ideas and concepts. A perception that we don't know from whence they come is essential to the pursuit of basic research.

What do you think of the current state of basic research in Japan? What could be done to advance it in the future?

In both universities and research in-

stitutes, there is a lack of basic research funding. Moreover, I feel that the mechanisms in place to select and implement good projects are not adequately functional. This is true even with large-scale projects to advance basic research, such as those carried out in the field of high energy physics. It will be necessary to improve these mechanisms.

You were 29 years old when you published your paper on CP violation asymmetry. I believe it is around age 30 when researchers are most creative. What sort of support could be most helpful to such young researchers? What do you think of the treatment they currently receive?

The number of postdoctoral researchers has been increasing; however, it is difficult for them to find positions. They are being thrashed about by the winds of overly strident competition: There is too much emphasis being placed on

achieving short-term results. Of course, a certain degree of competition is necessary; however, an environment is also needed in which researchers can pursue their work at a comfortable pace. To accomplish this, the selection rate under young-researcher-support programs will need to be raised.

There's a worsening trend for younger generations of Japanese, especially junior and senior high school students, to shy away from studying math and science. What might be done to reverse this tendency?

I know what I'd like to see done, but I don't know how realistic it is to expect that it will. That is when teaching math and science, to instill in students a perception that increasing their knowledge can in itself be fun while allowing them to enjoy with others a wider view of the world. Rather than over-focusing on students answering questions based on laws of science and

mathematics, what's needed is to arouse their interest in making new discoveries.

From your research on the origin of the universe, I feel a strong sense of passion. Do you consider yourself to be a romantic?

No, not a romantic, but a realist. Being able to make liberal use of my imagination in devising theories is fun, but what I really enjoy most is the process of proving those theories by bouncing them against reality.

As my last question, what changes have you experienced as a result of winning the Nobel Prize?

Well, for one thing I'm swamped with requests to give lectures and speeches. Above all else, receiving the Prize has made me very busy.

Dr. Makoto Kobayashi's Profile



JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi

Date of Birth: 7 April 1944

Nationality: Japanese

Education: B.S., Nagoya University, 1967

Ph.D., Nagoya University, 1972

Field of Specialization: Particle Theory

Positions:

2007-present Executive Director, JSPS

2006-present IIAS (International Institute for Advanced Studies) Fellow

2006-present Professor Emeritus, KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization)

2004-2006 Trustee, KEK

2003-2006 Director of Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies, KEK

1989-2003 Head of Physics Division II, KEK

1985-2003 Professor, KEK

1979-1985 Associate Professor, KEK

1972-1979 Research Associate, Kyoto University

Honors:

2007 EPS High Energy and Particle Physics Prize

2001 Person of Cultural Merit

1995 Chunichi Cultural Prize

1995 Asahi Prize

1985 The Japan Academy Prize

1985 J. J. Sakurai Prize (American Physical Society)

1979 Nishina Memorial Prize



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For a comprehensive sketch of Dr. Kobayashi's history and his scientific achievements, please see the KEK news release on the following website: <http://www.kek.jp/intra-e/press/2008/NobelKobayashi.html>

The fifth annual meeting of the NPO Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* was held on 5-7 October. Within its program, Session D3, entitled “Proposals from Young Scientists,” was organized by JSPS, along with a post-meeting set of study tours.

Annual Meeting of STS *forum*

The STS *forum* might be called the science and technology version of the World Economic Forum in Davos. As such, the fifth annual meeting, held at the Kyoto International Conference Center, attracted more than 750 people from 91 countries, regions and international agencies. The meeting's purpose was to assemble a critical mass of knowledge in moving forward a dialogue among peers on advancing science and technology while controlling attendant risks. Among the participants were high-ranking government officials including former prime ministers, royalty, science and technology ministers, university presidents, Nobel laureates, top-ranking business executives, and journalists. They exchanged views on the topic “Lights and Shadows of Science and Technology.” Mediating the proceedings was the meeting's chair Mr. Koji Omi, member of the House of Representatives, Japan.

The main theme of the meeting was “Harmony with Nature.” Related discussions on climate change, energy, biofuels, food production, medicine and health, information and communication technology, and research collaboration between advanced and developing countries were advanced in both the general and topical sessions. On the last day of the meeting, a statement was presented on science-policy formulation that takes into the points agreed upon and scientists' inputs. Closing remarks were delivered by His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince.

The statement can be read at the following website: http://www.stsforum.org/press/PDF/2008/Statement2008Final_EN.pdf

Session D3

As one of the annual meeting's sessions, the holding of Session D3 was proposed by the STS *forum* Council. JSPS was entrusted by the STS *forum* to plan and implement this first-time convening of Session D3 titled “Proposals from Young Scientists.” Held on 6 October, it brought together ten young researchers who will become future world leaders in their various fields and gave them an opportunity to make proposals about future S&T advances and vistas while receiving training and building networks among peers.

Attended by altogether some 60 participants, the session was chaired by



Session D3



Session D3 future leaders

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schürer, chairman, Foundation Lindau Nobelprizewinners Meetings at Lake Constance. Presentations were given by the ten young researchers, two each from Japan, the US, Europe, Africa and Asia. They had been selected by JSPS and the New York Academy of Sciences. The session addressed five themes: Fostering Young Researchers, Scheme to Develop the Creative Ideas of Young Researchers, Establishing Networks among Young Researchers, Mutual and International Exchange between Academic, Industrial and Governmental Sectors, and

Next Great Challenges for Science and Technology. Spirited discussions were held on each of them. The session wrapped up with the drafting of a statement “Proposals from Young Scientists—Building the Future of Science.” (The full statement is provided on the adjacent page.)



General session

The results of this session were reported by a young researcher representing the group at the top of the general session on the following day. Responding enthusiastically, the attendees gave him a warm hand of applause.

Study Tours

After the meeting, JSPS organized study tours on 8-9 October for the young researchers who gave presentations in Session D3. The tours gave them the chance to observe research activities on the leading edge of Japanese science and to exchange views with researchers at the various research facilities and laboratories visited.

As the young researchers are engaged in a range of different scientific fields, the tours were designed to offer them an assortment of observation venues, including the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK); Center for Tsukuba Advanced Research Alliance (TARA); Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering,



Study tour to KEK

University of Tsukuba; RIKEN Yokohama Institute; and Center for Nano-Bio Integration, the University of Tokyo. Thanks to cooperation by these institutions, the young researchers were given a wide cross-sectional view of research being advanced in Japan.

At each of the destinations, the participants were given briefings by front-line researchers, followed by animated Q&A discussions. These interchanges gave the young researchers enhanced knowledge about leading-edge science and technology while helping them to build future collegial relationships.



Study tour of University of Tokyo

Session D3: Proposals from Young Scientists—Building the Future of Science

Today, the Earth faces many serious problems, including droughts, global warming, and food and energy crises, for which only science and technology can yield effective solutions. Collaborating in arenas that transcend national borders, scientists are making step-by-step advances towards such solutions by vigorously pursuing new frontiers of knowledge.

Needless to say, implementing large-scale projects is indispensable to achieving big goals in solving global problems and generating intellectual assets that are the common property of humankind. It should not be forgotten, however, that the starting point of every big project is the creative ideas of the researchers themselves.

There has been a growing tendency over recent years for universities and government agencies to make research funding more competitive. In some countries, the tendency has been toward funding in favor of fairly standard research likely to deliver some returns over a relatively short period. In other countries, priority is placed on top-down research funding. In view of scientific advancement, however, such competitive, short-term and top-down approaches hinder researcher motivation and initiative while exerting a negative impact on young scientist development, as it is through repetition, not always steady pro-

gress, that research skills are honed.

On the other hand, private funding sources are increasingly filling the void left by diminishing national funding, particularly in providing funds with fewer restrictions, making research with higher risks and potentially higher rewards possible. The availability of such private funds may differ according to program scale; at present, however, few researchers have access to them.

The free ideas of young scientists are the gemstones of which diamonds are crafted. Each country is working to build and strengthen grant schemes for encouraging, supporting and fostering the creative ideas of young researchers.

The research-funding base of universities is shifting from government-allocated stable budgets to competitive funding. This has caused young scientists, who are the mainstay of university research, to often be treated as low-paid workers. New avenues must be developed that do not rely upon unstable competitive funding to employ young researchers and that stabilize their wages.

Collaborating across disciplines, ages and national boundaries, scientists working together in a spirit of friendly rivalry can provide the driving force that advances a myriad of scientific fields, paying dividends

for peoples and societies throughout the world.

Postulated upon this conceptual backdrop, we, ten researchers from around the world who have differing fields of specialization but who all seek to become world leaders in our fields, put forth the following proposals, formulated in cooperation with the other participants of Session D3:

- 1) Outstanding mentorship is critical for effective researcher development.
- 2) Support should be given to young scientists for carrying out visionary research in areas with and without immediate or obvious practical applications.
- 3) Establishing international cross-generational networks is crucial to building trust among researchers in competitive fields.
- 4) A need is emphasized for means to foster scientists in the developing world, while incentivizing them not to abandon their home communities.
- 5) Steps should be taken to rekindle the public's affinity for science, while making science a vote winner for political leaders.

2008 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology

On 17 September, at a meeting of the Committee on the International Prize for Biology (chair: Dr. Takashi Sugimura, vice president of the Japan Academy), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (president: Prof. Motoyuki Ono) decided to award the 24th International Prize for Biology (2008) to Dr. George David Tilman, Regents Professor of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota, USA. The field chosen for the Prize this year was "Ecology."

Achievements Recognized by the Award

Dr. Tilman has been a major influence in ecology and related fields thanks to the singularly outstanding work he has done, both in terms of theory and in long-term field experiments, on the formation and conservation mechanisms of Earth's biodiversity and the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and stability.

In ecology, resource competition was long believed to diminish diversity by not allowing species to coexist. Dr. Tilman has furthered the theoretical understanding of competition by determining that species coexistence can be explained if a tradeoff in the use of resources is involved, and that such tradeoffs play an important role in the organization of ecosystems, which are based upon relationships among multiple species. Further, by amassing data from long-term grassland experiments and adopting a synthetic theoretical approach, he has effectively settled the controversy among ecologists over the relationship between diversity and stability. He demonstrated, in fact, that while diversity causes the populations of individual species to fluctuate over time, it also acts to stabilize the functioning of the ecosystem as a whole. One has only to look at the frequency with which Dr. Tilman's publications are cited to appreciate the enormous influence that this work has had in



Dr. George David Tilman

ecology and related fields.

In a recent series of papers based on ecological theory and his own research, Dr. Tilman offers many thought-provoking insights into sustainable agriculture and biofuel production, accompanied by clearly presented information. With humanity facing an ever-deepening environmental crisis, Dr. Tilman's research achievements have contributed greatly to the renewal and development of ecology and related disciplines.

Ceremony and Commemorative Symposium

The award ceremony was held on 8 December at the Japan Academy. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress attended the ceremony and a party in honor of the award recipient.

To commemorate the award to Dr. Tilman, the 24th International Prize for Biology Commemorative Symposium on Ecology was held on 10-11 December at the Sendai International Center. At the symposium, Dr. Tilman and his colleagues on the forefront of ecology research, both in Japan and overseas, gave lectures on their latest findings.

— General Affairs Division

Dr. George David Tilman

Citizenship: United States of America

Position: University of Minnesota

Regents Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

McKnight Presidential Chair in Ecology

Director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

Career:

2002-present	Regents Professor, University of Minnesota
2001-present	McKnight Presidential Chair in Ecology, University of Minnesota
1996-2001	Distinguished McKnight University Professor, University of Minnesota
1992-present	Director, Cedar Creek Natural History Area, University of Minnesota
1984-1996	Professor, University of Minnesota
1980-1984	Associate Professor, University of Minnesota
1976-1980	Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota
1976	Ph.D., University of Michigan

Program for Promoting Social Science Research Aimed at Solutions of Near-Future Problems Enters New Phase

The “Program for Promoting Social Science Research Aimed at Solutions of Near-Future Problems” was established by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to support empirical research in the social sciences aimed at devising and disseminating methodologies and approaches for resolving socio-economic issues confronting present-day Japan. In addition to this problem-solving

orientation, these research projects are to be of a high academic standard, designed and implemented in such a way as to add new and elevated dimensions to research in the social sciences domain.

Under this MEXT initiative, JSPS is responsible for conducting application screening and overall program administration. In FY 2008, applications were

solicited for two project categories: Design of Socio-Economic Systems Yielding Robust Economic Vitality and Design of New Employment Systems Yielding Rich Quality of Life. Altogether, 56 applications were received, from which a selection committee, chaired by Dr. Hiroyuki Itami, professor, Tokyo University of Science, chose four through a process of document and panel reviews.

New Projects Implemented between FY 2008-2012

Host Institution	Research Title	Principal Investigator
Research Category I Design of Socio-Economic Systems Yielding Robust Economic Vitality		
Hitotsubashi University	Design of Societal System that Yields High-Quality Housing Stock	Dr. Makoto Saito (professor, Graduate School of Economics)
Hitotsubashi University	Design of Interfirm Network that Enables Long-Term Economic Growth	Dr. Tsutomu Watanabe (professor, Institute of Economic Research)
Research Category II Design of New Employment Systems Yielding Rich Quality of Life		
The University of Tokyo	Creation of Employment System that Enables Lifelong Growth for All People	Dr. Yuji Genda (professor, Institute of Social Science)
Ochanomizu University	Work and Life Balance from Gender-Sensitive Perspectives: Designing Work Style that Enables Career Development, and Family and Community Activities	Dr. Nobuko Nagase (professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences)

— University-Industry Cooperation and Research Program Division

French-Japanese Scientific Forum Held in Tokyo

On 4-10 October, a French-Japanese Scientific Forum was held in Tokyo. This year’s Forum celebrated the 150th year of friendly Franco-Japanese relations and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS). The Forum was supported by JSPS and other cooperating institutions and planned by the French-Japanese Scientific Forum Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. Yukio Matsumoto, Gakushuin University.

Three symposiums were held over the course of the Forum: (1) “High School Students Meet Mathematicians” on 4 October at the University of Tokyo; (2) “Scientific Conference Perspectives in Mathematical Sciences” on 7-9 October at the University of Tokyo and Keio

University; (3) “Math-Industry Symposium—Mathematics as Key for Innovation in Industry” on 10 October at Keidanren Headquarters.

JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono offered opening remarks at the 7-9 October symposium, in which he explained the JSPS-IHÉS(EPDI) Fellowship Program (EPDI: European Post-Doctoral Institute for Mathematical Sciences) and JSPS’s commitment to supporting it. He stated that mathematics is a vitally important research domain, providing, as it does, the undergirding for all fields of the natural sciences. The lineup of speakers featured the world-renowned mathematician Dr. Heisuke Hironaka.

All three symposiums enjoyed large



Prof. Ono with IHÉS director Dr. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon

groups of participants along with active exchanges of views among them and the cast of leading researchers from Japan and France who served as the lecturers.

— Research Cooperation Division I

Multidisciplinary ULP-JSPS Joint Forum Held

Over the two days of 29-30 May, a ULP-JSPS Joint Forum was held on the theme “Frontiers in Biology, Chemistry

and Physics” at the Institut de Science et d’Ingénierie Supramoléculaires (ISIS). Cosponsored by the JSPS

Strasbourg Office and University Louis Pasteur (ULP), the Forum drew some 300 participating French and Japanese

researchers. Underscoring this bilateral forum's huge popularity was over a century of scientific exchange between the city of Strasbourg and Japan.

In the past, these fora have been held on separate themes related to chemistry, physics and biology. This forum was designed to overarch the three fields in an effort to further invigorate Franco-Japanese scientific collaboration in new and innovative spheres of cutting-edge research.

To the Forum were invited 12 leading researchers from France and Japan

along with a group of talented young researchers (under age 45) from the two countries. The format paired 12 young French researchers with an equal number of young Japanese researchers, who would spend two weeks or more in the laboratory of their French counterpart seeking seeds for future joint research initiatives.

The total of 36 participants engaged in six discussion sessions: (1) Biodiversity & Genomics, (2) Medical Science, (3) Biofunctional Science, (4) Materials Science, (5) Catalysis & Environment, and (6) Nanosciences. In each, leading-



edge research was reported and views actively exchanged.

The forum proceedings were transmitted in realtime over the website Canal-U, where they are also archived. (See <http://www.canalc2.tv/>.)

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

Cairo Symposium Held in Search of Cancer Remedies

Believe it or not! A certain species of willows growing on the banks of the River Nile is said to be very effective in curing cancer. Addressing the theme "Egyptian Flora as Anti-Carcinogenic Agents," a JSPS-sponsored international symposium was held on 16-18 August in Cairo. This academic conference was organized by Dr. Hany A. El-Shemy, professor of biochemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, who had carried out research under a JSPS fellowship at Hiroshima University some years prior. Four Japanese academics participated in the conference, giving theme-related lectures from the various perspectives of their respective fields.

On the first day, the symposium was held on Dr. El-Shemy's home ground, the campus of Cairo University. In his keynote address, he spoke to the need for researching medicinal plants and using herbs for disease prevention.

The purpose of this symposium was, needless to say, not to deny the efficacy of conventional medical treatments for cancer. To the contrary, the second day

took the participants to the National Cancer Institute, where pure medical research is carried out along with clinical therapies for cancer patients. In the Institute's conference hall, Egyptian MDs, nurses, and other medical personnel listened attentively to lectures delivered by the Japanese and Egyptian panelists.

The final session on the third day took place at the 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital. As the picture below shows, it is an ultra-modern medical facility established and operated by charitable contributions from concerned individuals, organizations and companies. The figure 57357 is the bank account number for people to deposit their donations.



57357 Children's Cancer Hospital

Visiting the wards, we found many of the hospitalized children to be wearing baseball caps to cover their heads baldened by anti-cancer drugs. In a kids' room, we saw children playing with toys but there was no childlike ruckusing or even laughing, only a silent countenance on pale faces. Entering one of the patient rooms, the children and parents at their bedsides were surprised to see foreign intruders coming through the door. Nevertheless, they welcomed us warmly. When we were about to say goodbye, a little boy sitting on his bed took my hand; and for a long moment, his small palm refused to let go of my thick fingers.

It is said that Egyptian children suffer a variety of cancers at a higher rate than do children of other countries. Medical information gathered and exchanged at the Cairo symposium will surely take us another step towards winning the battle against cancer, especially in the tender lives of children.

By Dr. Yuji Oishi, director,
JSPS Cairo Research Station

Bonn Office Holds JSPS Abend

On 21 August, the JSPS Bonn Office held a JSPS Abend (evening get-together) at La Redoute, the house of the Prince Elector located in Bad Godesberg on the outskirts of Bonn.

Held every summer, the Abend hosts the heads of JSPS's partner agencies, universities and other counterparts and affiliates in Germany. It offers a chance for the Office's staff to report

on its activities and to express its appreciation to the guests for their help in carrying them out, while widening the ring of cooperation between JSPS and the German academic community.

Heightening interest in this year's Abend was stimulated by the award of the "Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany" to JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono from the German Government. Some 120 people hastened to the event, marking a record number of Abend attendees.

At the end of June, there had been a rotation in the Bonn Office's directorship. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Ono thanked the outgoing Office director Prof. Dr. Yasuo Tanaka for his tremendous contributions to promoting scientific exchange between Germany and Japan, while voicing high expectations in the incoming director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira. His remarks were followed by messages of congratulations and encouragement from Mr. Kiyoshi Koinuma, minister, Embassy of Japan



Former Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Tanaka and wife Toshiko

in Germany; Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz, president, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; Prof. Dr. Stefan Hormuth, president, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); Dr. Michael Stückradt, permanent secretary, Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia; and Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, president, German Rectors' Conference. Then, the get-together

started in earnest with a toast proposed by Ms. Dorothee Dzwonnek, secretary general, German Research Foundation (DFG).

Toward the meeting's end, Prof. Dr. Tanaka expressed his deep appreciation to all in attendance, while giving an account of the milestones along the course of his 13-year tenure as the Bonn Office director. Preceded by words of congratulations from German JSPS Club chair Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhau, the new director Prof. Dr. Kodaira spoke about his plans and aspirations for Japanese-German cooperation in the next stage of the Office's operation. All in all, the Abend provided an ideal venue for celebrating the Bonn Office's new thrust into the future.

— JSPS Bonn Office

Stockholm Colloquium Held on Environmental Sustainability

On 5 September, the JSPS Stockholm Office held a Sweden-Japan Joint Environment Colloquium on the theme "Sustainability of the Natural Environment." The Stockholm School of Economics hosted the meeting and cosponsored it along with Kyoto University. It was attended by about 40 researchers and graduate students from Sweden and Japan.

In recent years, global warming, climate change and environmental degradation have come to the fore of international attention as pressing global issues. This colloquium was held to seek avenues and directions in devising countermeasures to such environmental issues by advancing an interactive agenda of leading-edge research reports and probing discussions.

At the opening of the meeting, Ambassador Akira Nakajima, Embassy of Japan in Sweden, expressed his hope that Japan and Sweden will carry forward collaborative research in such a way as to help meet the goal of the Hokkaido Toyako Summit, which is to cut in half the amount of greenhouse emissions by the year 2050. Speaking next, Prof. Hiroshi Sano, director, JSPS Stockholm Office, said he looked forward to the colloquium being a plat-

form for presentations and discussions that interface related fields of the natural and social sciences.

In the colloquium's first session, the two countries' coordinators gave presentations on issues to be addressed. First, touching upon the current global environmental situation, Dr. Yoshihisa Shimizu, professor, Kyoto University, said that it will require a comprehensive and difficult process of political, economic and societal reform to solve prevailing environmental problems but that for this meeting it would be best to place focus on discussing and proposing ways to enhance environmental education as a measure toward tackling these problems. Then, describing the influence that corporations exert on society, Dr. Susanne Sweet, associate professor, Stockholm School of Economics, spoke about corporate responsibility as related to the environment and the need for corporate reform, using as reference case studies of the impact of distribution operations on the environment. To solve such problems, she suggested discussing ways to modify the value system underlying people's selection of goods to purchase.

The second topical session focused on aqua-environmental protection, includ-

ing presentations on ways of eliminating water pollution caused by pharmaceutical waste, such as wastewater management and environmentally sustainable sanitation systems, and on methods of environmental impact assessment.

The third session was on environmental education, including programs carried out in Japan and other Asian countries. In all three sessions, the latest research in both Japan and Sweden was reported along with the results of case studies.

Then, a panel discussion was held on the theme "Integrating sustainability in education." Each university and corporation represented on the panel introduced its environmental education programs. While exchanging views on these programs, the panelists discussed concepts of environmental education



and trends in its implementation, along with cultural differences that need to be grasped and correlated to move ahead international cooperation in this domain. The colloquium also featured a

poster session carried out by the young researchers in attendance.

All in all, the event ended on a strong note of expectation—that the collo-

quium provided a valuable first step in promoting continued collaboration between Sweden and Japan in this globally significant arena.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

Public Symposium on Jomon Culture Held with UC Berkeley

On 19-20 September, the JSPS San Francisco Office convened a public symposium in co-sponsorship with UC Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies (CJS). Held at the Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS), the symposium focused on the theme "Prehistoric Jomon of Japan and Hunter-Gatherer Lifeways." "Jomon" is a prehistoric period of the Japanese archipelago that ran from approximately 12,000 BC to 500 BC.

Invited to address the symposium were twelve researchers from Japan, the US and Canada, who gave presentations on Jomon culture and other prehistoric archaeological topics. The



full-to-capacity audience comprised undergraduate students, researchers of all levels, and interested members of the general public.

The symposium started with remarks by CJS chair Prof. Duncan Williams, followed by JSPS San Francisco Office director Prof. Seishi Takeda, who welcomed the participants. Keynote speeches were delivered in the morning and sessions were held in the both the morning and afternoon. Each featured paired presentations, followed by questions from the audience.

On the second day, most of the presentations by guest speakers from Japan were given. Being experts in a range of related fields, the speakers from the three countries widened the analytical approach to the period, adding anthropology and even DNA analysis to conventional archaeological methodologies. After each presentation, the speaker fielded volleys of questions from the floor. The symposium was a trailblazing event in that it marked an energetic beginning to collaboration across a



Guest speaker Prof. Tetsuo Kikuchi giving presentation

spectrum of research fields among researchers from Japan, the US and Canada.

Graduate students conducting Jomon research at Berkeley asked the office staff about research opportunities available in Japan. We were pleased to introduce them to the multi-tiered JSPS fellowship programs for overseas researchers.

The program for this event can be found on the following website: <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2008.09.19w.html>

— JSPS San Francisco Office

Metals in Synthesis Symposium Held at University of Bath

On 15 October, the JSPS London Office supported the holding of the "Metals in Synthesis Symposium" held at the University of Bath. It featured a Royal Society of Chemistry Endowed Lectureship Visit by Prof. Masakatsu Shibasaki of the University of Tokyo. Being a world leader in the subject field, the symposium gave Prof. Shibasaki an ideal opportunity to present his ideas, concepts and research results to a UK audience. He directed his remarks to recent progress in research on asymmetric two-centre catalyses, which enable coupling between unactivated substrates, contributing to green chemistry by reducing



Prof. Shibasaki giving lecture

both waste and complexity.

Three UK-based academics, who share common research interests with Prof. Shibasaki, were invited to speak from

their differing research career perspectives. They were Prof. Jonathan Williams from the University of Bath, Dr. Mike Willis from the University of Oxford, and Dr. Paul Davies from the University of Birmingham. The common theme among their lectures was the fundamental value of using metals in the synthesis of organic molecules. In this segment, Dr. John Fossey, the main organizer from the University of Bath, gave a speech about his JSPS-supported research experiences in Japan. He is currently the secretary of the UK JSPS Alumni Association.

These lectures were followed by a

poster session and wine reception hosted by the JSPS London Office. More than 100 researchers attended the day's events. The reception gave them a good chance to interact with Prof. Shibasaki and discuss ideas on the cutting edge of scientific discovery. At it, JSPS London Office director Prof. Yuko Furukawa extended congratulatory remarks to the staff of the Univer-

sity of Bath for hosting such a fruitful symposium, and she presented awards to the winners of the poster session. Motivated by Prof. Shibasaki's work, several researchers approached the JSPS London staff with enquiries about applying for JSPS programmes.

— JSPS London Office



Researchers making enquiries to London Office director

New FURUSATO Awards Launched by JSPS London Office

This year, the JSPS London Office launched an alumni-support scheme called the "FURUSATO Awards." Its



UK JSPS Alumni Association has over 150 members and continues to grow.

purpose is to provide financial support to members of the UK JSPS Alumni Association in helping them to maintain and strengthen their links and relationships with the Japanese scientific community—their second home "FURUSATO." Alumni may apply for research support with a host of the same or different institution from that which they have previously been associated.

Under this scheme, international transportation and a maintenance allowance are paid for one research trip

to a Japanese host institution. The maximum amount provided to each successful applicant is £2,000.

To date, four grants have been approved. An official award ceremony will be held at the January meeting of the UK JSPS Alumni Association. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of UK-Japan diplomatic relations, a further call for applications was also issued, with a closing date of 17 November.

— JSPS London Office

JSPS Alumni Associations

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

- German JSPS Club

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

- UK JSPS Alumni Association

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

- JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden

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

- France Alumni Association

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

- US JSPS Fellows Alumni Association

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

- Indian JSPS Alumni Association

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

JSPS Fellows Plaza's Alumni Association homepage:

http://www.jspss.go.jp/english/e-plaza/20_alumni.html

(The site will be updated in February.)

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.jspss.go.jp/english/e-plaza/>

You'll find pages on "How to Apply," "Experiences and Messages from JSPS Fellows," "Program Guidelines," "e-Orientations," "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



Asian Science Seminar Held in China

On 19-25 October, an Asian Science Seminar was held on the theme "Frontier Science at High-Intensity Proton Accelerators." The venue was Zhongguancun in Beijing, China. Hosted by the China Center of Advanced Science and Technology, the seminar was cosponsored by JSPS; Tohoku University; China Institute of Atomic Energy (CIAE); and Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); and supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China; Institute of Theoretical Physics, CAS; Institute of Chemistry, CAS; and J-PARC (Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex) Center.

Asian Science Seminars are held to foster young Asian researchers who will pioneer the next generations of scientific advances. With that emphasis, this seminar was aimed at honing the capacities of already talented young researchers in the field of accelerator science by placing its focus on the leading-edge work advanced through J-PARC's high-power proton accelerator being constructed jointly by KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization) and JAEA (Japan Atomic Energy Agency).

The seminar's faculty comprised 15 lecturers from China, headed by Prof.



Prof. T.D. Lee engaged in Q&A discussion

T.D. Lee, Nobel Laureate in Physics; Prof. Zhixiang Zhao, president, CIAE; Prof. Hesheng Chen, director, IHEP; and Prof. Jiaer Chen, former president, Peking University, and 50 from Japan including Dr. Shoji Nagamiya, director, J-PARC Center; Prof. Atsuto Suzuki, director general, KEK; and Prof. Osamu Hashimoto, vice president, Tohoku University. The total of 81 lecturers also included 10 from Korea and six from other countries. Among the participating young researchers, who were mostly graduate students, 67 were from China, 33 from Japan, and three from Korea.

Lectures were delivered in the morning and workshops held in the afternoon of each day. The workshops spawned spirited discussions among the young participants and lecturers in the three subject fields of particle/nuclear physics, material/life sciences, and accelerator/experimental facilities. An excursion to the Great Wall held at mid-point of the seminar strengthened

the participants' sense of collegiality.

In his summary remarks, Prof. Xiangwan Du, vice president, Chinese Academy of Engineering, stated, "We are gratified to see so many young scientists and students here, eagerly learning about this exciting science and anticipating their participation in experiments at brand-new facilities, which aligns well with the mission of the seminar's sponsors." Regarding international collaboration, he remarked "We are familiar with the Beijing Olympic's slogan 'One World, One Dream'; as scientists it is perhaps more appropriate to say 'One Universe, One Goal.'" The seven days of energetic interaction between this superb cast of lecturers and gifted cadre of young researchers seeded a kind of vibrant international collaboration that one could only believe marked a new phase in the advance of accelerator science.



— JSPS Beijing Office

Events

Strasbourg Office

INRA-JSPS Workshop
"Molecular Dialogue of Bacteria with the Host"
INRA Head office, Paris, 30 January 2009

London Office

Pre-Departure Seminar and Alumni Evening
JSPS London Office, End of January 2009

Japan-UK Higher Education Symposium 2009
British Council, London, 12-13 February 2009

Today Forum

London and Manchester, End of April 2009

Washington Office

Alumni Association Symposium
"Multifunctional Nanoscale Materials for the 21st Century"
Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, 7-8 March 2009

Bonn Office

The 5th Japan-Germany Colloquium
"Evolutionary Genomics"
Avendi Hotel, Bad Honnef, 9-10 March 2009

Beijing Office

The Second China-Japan Science Forum
"The 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake and Natural Disaster Mitigation"
Beijing, 9-10 March 2009

Stockholm Office

JSPS Colloquium
"Space Physics—Sun and Earth Connections" (tentative title)
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, 10-11 March 2009

Recruitments

For FY 2009

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

For 3rd recruitment, application deadline from host institution: 2-6 February 2009

For 4th recruitment, application deadline from host institution: 6-10 April 2009

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Standard)

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

Application deadline from host institution to JSPS: 1-12 May 2009

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

Recent Visitors to JSPS (August-October 2008)

Former Secretary General of Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

On 4 September, Dr. Erling Norrby, former secretary general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, came to JSPS to exchange views with JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and academic advisor Dr. Kumao Toyoshima. They told Dr. Norrby about a new program, called HOPE Meetings, that was launched in February 2008 to foster future generations of scientists in the Asia-Pacific by giving selected graduate

students from the region an opportunity to receive lectures from and interact with Nobel laureates and other highly distinguished scientists. They also discussed exchange between JSPS and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and other Swedish institutions with a focus on promoting even closer scientific collaboration between the two countries.

— Research Cooperation Division I



VINNOVA Director General

On 2 October, Dr. Per Eriksson, director general, Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), came with a delegation to JSPS to exchange views with JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono on expanding scientific exchange between Sweden and Japan. Currently, VINNOVA acts as a nominating authority in Sweden for JSPS's Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers and Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan (Short-term),

with bilateral joint research projects about to be implemented in the near future.

It was agreed that supporting such collaborative research by JSPS and VINNOVA will go a long way in strengthening the partnership between Sweden and Japan, as heretofore a framework has not existed for funding research projects carried out jointly by teams from the two countries. Accordingly, it was decided to continue talks to-



ward establishing a mutually satisfactory bilateral research framework.

— Research Cooperation Division I

Argentine Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation

On 8 October, Dr. José Lino Salvador Barañao, Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, met with JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono. Having attended the Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* in Kyoto on 5-7 October, Dr. Barañao took advantage of being in Japan to make a visit to JSPS's Tokyo

Office. They spoke about their impressions of the STS *forum* and ways to further promote bilateral exchange between the two countries. Dr. Barañao took the opportunity to express his congratulations to JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi on having won the Nobel Prize in Physics.

— Research Cooperation Division I



Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

On 10 October, a delegation of seven officials, headed by Dr. Hany Mahfouz Helal, Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, visited JSPS. Dr. Helal conveyed the Ministry's appreciation to JSPS for the support it accords Egyptian researchers and the help it gave in recently establishing the Egyptian alumni association of former JSPS fellows. He also congratulated JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi on receiving this year's Nobel Prize. The delegation introduced new

research-exchange initiatives that the Ministry would like to initiate between Egypt and Japan, and said they looked forward to the good collaborative relationship between the two countries continuing after this 2008 Japan-Egypt Year of Science and Technology, with its many commemorative events.

Thanking Dr. Helal and his delegation for their visit, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono elaborated on bilateral cooperation, introducing a new science and technology



ODA program administered in part by JSPS, and telling the delegation how pleased he was that Egyptian researchers had taken the initiative in organizing the Egyptian alumni association.

— Asian Program Division

Eminent Scientist Dr. Maxim Kontsevich

Dr. Maxim Kontsevich, professor, Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS), was invited to Japan by the Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University, under JSPS's program "Award for Eminent Scientists." On 15 October, he made a courtesy visit to JSPS. Specializing in geometry, algebra and global analysis, Dr.

Kontsevich won the Otto Hahn Medal in 1992, the Poincaré Prize in 1997, the Fields Medal in 1998, and the Légion d'honneur in 2004. After talking to JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, Dr. Kontsevich visited with JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi, who won this year's Nobel Prize.

— Overseas Fellowship Division



Ikeda High School (Kagoshima)

Date: 20 October

Dr. Hakim Saibi (Algeria)
Host institution: Kyushu University
Title: "The Advantages of Measuring Gravity in Geothermal, Volcanological and Seismological Studies"



Kumamoto Prefectural Daini High School

Date: 29 October

Dr. Jianhui Wang (China)
Host institution: Kagoshima University
Title: "A Brief Introduction to Cloning"



Nagano Prefecture Suwa Seiryō High School

Date: 23 October

Dr. Ling Bai (China)
Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "China and Earthquake"



Niigata Prefectural Niitsu High School

Date: 30 October

Dr. Md. R. Islam (Bangladesh)
Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "Arsenic Contamination in Soil, Water and Plants"



Saitama Prefectural Urawa Ichijo High School

Date: 21 October

Dr. Casey M. Lambert (Canada)
Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "When a Satellite Needs an Attitude Adjustment"



Shizuoka Kita High School (Shizuoka)

Date: 19 September

Dr. Barry J. Ripley (UK)
Host institution: Osaka University
Title: "The Science of Green Tea"



Tochigi Prefectural Utsunomiya Girls' High School

Date: 4 October

Dr. Ronald J. Christie (USA)
Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "Biocompatible Polymers: Design, Function and Uses"



Date: 4 October

Dr. Abdullah M. Shohael (Bangladesh)
Host institution: University of Tsukuba
Title: "Advantages of Plant Tissue Culture"



Date: 4 October

Dr. Farid Kendoul (Algeria)
Host institution: Chiba University
Title: "Aerial Robotics and Its Application in Our Daily Life"



Date: 4 October

Dr. Francisco J. Jimenez-Espejo (Spain)
Host institution: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
Title: "The Climate System"

Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Date: 9 September

Dr. Liyong Ren (China)
Host institution: The University of Electro-Communications
Title: "Periodic Photonic Structure: A New Frontier in Modern Optics"



Date: 21 October

Dr. Albert Djemetio (Cameroon)
Host institution: Meiji Gakuin University
Title: "The Environmental and Human Health Impact of Waste Invasion in Mega-cities"



Date: 24 October

Dr. K.B.Shameen N. Jinadasa (Sri Lanka)
Host institution: Saitama University
Title: "About My Country and My Research"

Message from Former JSPS Fellow (12)

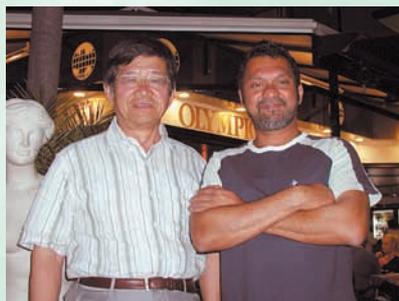
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship: As the Launch Pad of My Research Career

In mid-2000, I was busy making final preparations to submit my PhD thesis at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. One day I rushed into the staff tearoom in Department of Political Studies to meet my PhD supervisor Prof. Rouben Azizian. There, he introduced me to a Japanese professor who was visiting the Department. He was Prof. Yujiro Iwamoto from Kobe Gakuin University, an expert in New Zealand and Australian politics. Prof. Iwamoto would subsequently become my host and advisor under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship.

Visiting Japan had been my childhood dream. Later, novelists like Yasunari Kawabata, Kenzaburo Oe, Yukio Mishima and Haruki Murakami became some of my favourite authors. Therefore, receiving a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship not only helped to launch my academic career, but was also literally a dream come true.

At Kobe Gakuin University, I continued my research in the area of peace and conflict studies, with particular focus on a comparison between Japan and New Zealand's nuclear policies. The topic fascinated me because the two nations have long been ardent peace advocates at the forefront of the nuclear disarmament process, while, at the same time, possessing distinctly different nuclear policies.

I benefited immensely from my association with Prof. Iwamoto, who was always very



Dr. Edirippulige with his former host Prof. Iwamoto

generous in sparing time to discuss issues and to share with me his experiences and expertise. During my time at Kobe Gakuin, I learnt how to undertake research challenges and to communicate my research findings; in other words, how to use research theories and methodologies and put them into practice. I was offered ample opportunities to meet experts in areas of Japanese nuclear policy, constitutional law, policymaking, and peace and conflict studies. My colleagues at Kobe Gakuin also imbued me with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The JSPS fellowship allowed me to travel around Japan while carrying out my research. My visit to Hiroshima during the Peace Memorial Ceremony (held on 6 August) to attend a conference on nuclear disarmament was most memorable. The conference offered me an opportunity to meet researchers and practitioners from around the world and discuss issues with them. I was also able to visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which was an indescribable experience. The very fact that the Japanese people have chosen the words "peace memorial" as opposed to "war memorial" (as in other places in the world) evoked within me a deep sense of respect and veneration for them.

After completing my JSPS fellowship, I came back to Australia and accepted a teaching position at the Centre for Online Health, University of Queensland. My primary responsibilities are teaching and coordinating graduate and postgraduate e-Health programs.

I maintain close contact with my JSPS host and colleagues at Kobe Gakuin University and a number of other Japanese institutions. Since my departure, I have visited Kobe Gakuin on several occasions. In 2005, I was invited as a guest speaker at a conference organised by Niigata University of Health and Welfare. Again



Dr. Sisira Kumara Edirippulige

Coordinator, e-Healthcare Programs, Centre for Online Health, the University of Queensland, Australia

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, 2000-2002

in 2006, I attended a conference on "Technology-Enabled Global Knowledge Structuring" organised by the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and held at the University of Tokyo. On a number of occasions, my colleagues from Japan have visited the University of Queensland and other institutions in Australia and New Zealand. For me, it has been a privilege to host them and facilitate their research and collaborations.

In addition to research, during my stay in Japan I put some effort into learning the Japanese language. Today, I find my knowledge of Japanese to be an invaluable communication asset. Influenced by some of my Japanese friends, I also adopted marathon running and mountain climbing, which have become part of my life back in Australia.

In sum, I feel extremely fortunate to have been awarded the JSPS fellowship because of the chance it gave me to advance my research, make colleagues and friends, experience the way the Japanese appreciate and celebrate everything good in human nature and the natural environment, and last but not least, enjoy the exquisite Japanese cuisine.



Cover photo:

Rising sun casts misty glow on snow-capped Mt. Fuji.

About JSPS

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



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.



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