# SPS Quartery Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



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## **Presentation Ceremony Held for 2010 International Prize for Biology**

On 6 December, the 26<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony for awarding the International Prize for Biology was held in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan at the Japan Academy, located in Ueno Park, Tokyo. The ceremony was organized by the Committee on the International Prize for Biology, chaired by Dr. Takashi Sugimura, vice president of the Japan Academy.

At the ceremony, an opening message was delivered by Dr. Sugimura and a report on the selection process was provided by Dr. Makoto Asashima, chair of this year's Selection Committee, after which the prize and an Imperial gift were presented to this year's awardee, Dr. Nancy Ann Moran, William H. Fleming Professor of Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University. Congratulatory remarks followed from the Prime Minister (read by Mr. Tetsuro Fukuyama, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and from Mr. Yoshiaki Takaki, Minister of



At reception



Dr. Moran giving presentation in presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress

Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The ceremony concluded with an acceptance address from Dr. Moran.

At the reception following the ceremony, a congenial atmosphere prevailed with Their Majesties and Dr. Moran engaging in amicable conversation with each other and with the guests who included embassy representatives and the Prize Committee members.

The International Prize for Biology Commemorative Symposium and Lecture on "Biology of Symbiosis" was then held on 7-8 December at Tsukuba International Congress Center in Tsukuba, Ibaraki.

#### **Acceptance Address by Dr. Nancy Ann Moran**

First of all, I wish to express my feelings of being deeply honored, and also deeply humbled, on this occasion. Past recipients of the International Prize for Biology include some of the great scientists of our times. In evolutionary biology and in some other areas of basic research in biology, it is perhaps the most prominent international prize that can be conferred. Furthermore, I know that there are other distinguished biologists who have made immense scientific contributions and who would be deserving recipients of this prize.

So I accept this award with great pleasure but also with humility and with gratitude towards all of those who have made this possible. First, I thank Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress. Their presence today demonstrates how much they value science and recognize its importance to human society. I also thank the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Through this annual Prize, they bring attention and distinction to the scientific enterprise and to fundamental research in the biological sciences in particular. The prize and today's ceremony demonstrate the respected role of basic research within Japan.

I also wish to recognize and thank some of the people who have shaped my own development as a scientist. Unlike many researchers, I did not grow up in a household that placed much emphasis on scientific or academic activities. My father ran a movie theater, and my mother raised eight children, with me in the middle. But both of my parents respected and supported my choices in many ways. I loved insects and plants even as a small girl, and these odd interests were recognized and accepted by my parents: my father caught living tarantulas for me to observe, while my mother took us for walks through the woods and creeks near our home in Texas, and allowed me to keep turtles, ducks, parakeets, cats, dogs, and a horse, at different times during my childhood. My real love for research started as an undergraduate at the University of Texas, where I encountered scientists for the first time and was lucky enough to interact with a lively group of graduate students. Among them were Nancy Burley and Joan Strassmann, both of whom provided important examples and advice and both of whom went on to become well recognized scientists. At Texas, professors Dan Otte and Eric Pianka were also major influences on me, and I was inspired by their passion for biology and their insistence on challenging students with the biggest questions and the most rigorous materials. And Larry Gilbert, through his summer field course, converted me to the study of insects.

As a new graduate student at University of Michigan, I immediately encountered the intellectual excitement of evolutionary biology, through interactions first with John Maynard Smith and Richard Alexander, and soon after with William Hamilton. The latter two became my doctoral advisors, and both shaped my thinking in fundamental ways, partly in agreement and partly in opposition. They understood and studied the remarkable range of phenotypic adaptations that could result from natural selection. This planted in me an interest in understanding the limits of selection, and the potential for natural selection to push evolving lineages down dead-end paths of specialization. Both Dick and Bill were superb naturalists, with keen knowledge and perception of the natural world and with a passion for observing organisms in the wild. Both of them also emphasized the importance of addressing big questions, questions for which the answers

would truly deepen our understanding of organisms and evolution. Bill's developing focus on pathogens as forces affecting hosts kindled my interest in microbial associates of animals. And that led me to find and peruse Paul Buchner's compendium of animal symbioses in the libraries at Michigan. However at that time, there were few tools for pursuing studies of microorganisms that cannot be grown in the laboratory.

After starting a faculty position at the University of Arizona, I was fortunate to have a number of brilliant colleagues and friends in biology, too many to list individually. But a few stand out. For example, Elizabeth Bernays, Reginald Chapman, and Therese Markow provided models for scientific teamwork mentoring, and for how to combine research with a full life and broad interests. The University of Arizona itself gave me freedom and resources to pursue new topics, as I moved between fields, from

evolutionary ecology into genomics of bacteria. The US National Science Foundation has consistently supported my work. This funding has allowed me to pursue unanticipated directions that have produced the most exciting results in the longer run.

I am indebted to Paul Baumann, who was among the first to use molecular methods for the study of bacteria symbionts, and who was responsible for bringing me to this topic. I learned much from his deep knowledge of microbiology, his love of scientific exploration, his work ethic, and his rigorous standards. I was lucky to collaborate closely with him for a decade, during the 1990's.

The past decade has yielded surprising discoveries about the role of symbiosis in deep evolution and in the ongoing changes in populations and species, and it has been a joy to work in this field. A great deal of credit for my accomplishments goes to the

wonderful students and postdoctoral researchers who have worked with me over the years. Most are now established as researchers or professors at their own institutions, and I am most proud of this legacy of talented, insightful, and independent researchers.

The individual to whom I am most indebted and most grateful is my husband, Howard Ochman. His brilliance, vast knowledge of biology, and sense of humor have benefited me every day since we met. We have worked together for 13 years and I hope we can continue for a very long time in the future. I also am grateful to my daughter, Claire, who has accommodated my interests and work and who has helped in various ways.

I will end by again expressing my deepest thanks to Their Majesties for their presence today and to the JSPS for its support and its work to make this award possible.

- General Affairs Division

## First Projects Selected under G8 Research Councils Initiative

Seven research councils of G8 countries—JSPS, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), French National Research Agency (ANR), German Research Foundation (DFG), Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), Research Councils UK (RCUK), and US National Science Foundation (NSF)—have established the "G8 Research Councils Initiative," a collaborative research program under which they will fund cross-disciplinary international research projects. The program is designed to support excellent multilateral research on topics of global relevance carried out by consortia comprising researchers from at least three member countries.

An open call for applications was issued in February 2010 for the program's first projects on the theme "Interdisciplinary Program on Application Software towards Exascale Computing for Global Scale Issues." Six projects have been selected via a 2-stage competition. The selected consortia will begin their joint research from this April.

The second call is currently underway, and the third call is scheduled to be issued in 2012.

For further information, please see this website: http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bottom/01\_b\_gaiyo.html

Research Cooperation Division I

## **Second Japan-UK Higher Education Symposium**

On 18-19 November, the second Japan-UK Higher Education Symposium was held on the subject "Internationalisation of universities—How to enhance and maintain teaching and research quality." Venued at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, the symposium was sponsored by JSPS, the British Council, Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE), and Kyushu University. This second symposium attracted some 80 university representatives from Japan and the UK. Discussions were advanced on three themes: Staff and student mobility, Transferable skills and career development of PhD students, and Developing a university-wide international ethos.

Remarks from JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and the other sponsors led off the first day's agenda. They were followed by keynote addresses from Dr. Tsutomu Kimura, advisor to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Prof. Don Nutbeam, vice-chancellor, University of Southampton, illuminating the state of higher education in both countries. The



second day saw feedback on the previous day's conversations and an in-depth plenary discussion, sharpening the participants' perception of issues and differences relative to the internationalisation of higher education in the two countries, jelling a renewed understanding of the need to establish a close partnership—one that can take advantage of opportunities for future bilateral collaboration.

- Research Cooperation Division I

## **Series of Frontiers of Science Symposiums Held**

Frontiers of Science (FoS) Symposiums are co-organized by JSPS and its overseas counterpart agencies. Targeting top-level young researchers of up to 45 years of age, they are held over a 3-day period, during which some 60-80 (30-40 from each country) participants lodge together. In FY 2010, three FoS Symposiums were held with America, Germany and France. It was the twelfth symposium to be held with the US, the seventh with Germany, and the fifth with France. Each was folded into the bilateral framework of exchange between Japan and the counterpart country. FoS Symposiums are highly appraised as being in a class by themselves, having unique components not found in other programs.



Japanese-German Frontiers of Science (JGFoS) Symposium
Held jointly with Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) in Potsdam on
12-14 November

Among the FoS Symposium's distinctive features are its assembly under one roof of gifted young researchers from Japan and the counterpart country with widely diverse specializations from the humanities and social sciences to such fields of the natural sciences as medicine and physics; presentations given on the attractiveness and potential of selected research topics in a variety of cutting-edge fields; and wide cross-disciplinary discussions among all the participants. Unlike the usual conference, specialized con-



Japanese-American Frontiers of Science (JAFoS) Symposium
Held jointly with the National Academy of Sciences in Chiba on 3-5 December.

cepts and terminologies are not commonly understood among the participants. Unimpeded, the young researchers, who are laboring on the frontlines of their respective fields, engage each other in animated discussions like "a match between fighters in different martial arts"—to borrow a Japanese expression.

Many of the participants may have been fearful of engaging in discussions with researchers outside their fields, but once the discussion sessions start they soon hurdle that boundary and can be seen hurling salvos of questions that strike at the core of other researchers' specializations. Such interaction in the sessions often segues into spirited informal discussions that spill over into the breaks and continue after dinner until late into the evening.

The participants are already of a caliber high enough to pioneer new frontiers in their areas of specialization. In addition to giving them new perceptions that can enrich their research, the exchange that the young researchers experience in FoS Symposiums is meant to help them on their way to becoming next-generation leaders, endowed with free ideas, abundant creativity, and wide perspectives.



Japanese-French Frontiers of Science (JFFoS) Symposium
Held jointly with the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research
(MESR), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE), and Centre
National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Tokyo on 21-23 January.

Another feature of the FoS program is its planning groups, whose members are appointed from among the participants of the previous year's symposium. They plan and organize the following year's symposium, including the selection of its session topics and speakers. Two planning group members, one from Japan and the other from the counterpart country, are assigned to each session, the preparation for which they carry out over a period exceeding one year in getting ready for the symposium. The great success enjoyed by the three FoS Symposiums held in FY 2010 owes to the efforts of the planning group members and the active engagement of their participants.

— Research Cooperation Division  ${\mathbb I}$ 

## **JUNBA Holds Annual Event**

"JUNBA 2011—Global Adaptability of Japanese Universities" was held on 7 January. It was the fifth in this series implemented by JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area). The JSPS San Francisco Office acts as JUNBA's secretariat.

The morning session, entitled "US-Japan University Round Table Discussion—Nurturing Global Adaptability of University Students," assembled presidents and trustees of US and Japanese universities. It began with opening remarks from JUNBA president Dr. Masato Matsuo, followed by a keynote speech from Dr. Mohammad H. Qayoumi, president, California State University, East Bay, who spoke about the educational strategies of California state universities. It offered a prelude to a group discussion on the kind of education that is needed to cultivate talented young people



Prof. Ono participating in Summit discussion

with wide international perspectives.

The afternoon's JUNBA Summit drew upon the morning session's discussion in addressing the topic "Global Adaptability of Japanese Universities." It was led off by greetings from Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Consul General of Japan, and JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono, after whom Mr. Shinjiro Komatsu, deputy director-general, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, delivered a keynote speech on the internationalization of university education in Japan. In the ensuing discussion, the JUNBA-member institutions and other leading Japanese universities introduced their programs while exchanging views with the participants on such subjects as

the internationalization initiatives taken by US universities and measures to foster internationally adept students.

Counting those who observed the event, some 100 people participated in this Round Table and Summit. All in all, JUNBA 2011 was successful in invigorating yet another dimension of interuniversity exchange between the United States and Japan. Building on these results, it is expected that JUNBA will continue to contribute to academic internationalization in the two countries.

For more detailed information about JUNBA, please visit its website at http://www.junba.org/.

- JSPS San Francisco Office

## Symposium Held on Science and Nuclear Disarmament in Washington, DC

On 8 November, the JSPS Washington Office and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) cosponsored a symposium titled "Science and Nuclear Disarmament: Progress and Challenges."

Kicking off the symposium with a keynote speech was Ms. Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance and chief negotiator for the New START Treaty. The following sessions featured lectures on "Nuclear Disarmament" by a wide range of experts, including American and Japanese physicists, former diplomats, a Nobel laureate in economics, and a Japanese professor, Dr. Soho Machida, Hiroshima University, who offered a view from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event wound up with a panel discussion that enjoyed the active participation of the symposium attendants.

In the closing session, Ms. Helga Tabuchi, deputy director of JSPS's International Program Department, offered a congratulatory message to Dr. Norman Neureiter, senior adviser, AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy and former S&T Adviser to the US Secretary of State, who was awarded the Japanese government's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in 2010.

Following the symposium, a reception was held at the same



Dr. Neureiter leading the panel discussion

venue, giving the lecturers and participants an opportunity to continue their spirited exchange of views, drawing the curtain on a very meaningful event.

— JSPS Washington Office

## **NSF Selects Candidates for JSPS Summer Program**

On 6-7 January, a merit review panel meeting was convened at the National Science Foundation's headquarters to choose candidates for its East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI) program.

In the meeting's plenary session, Dr. Larry Weber, director of OISE (Office of International Science and Engineering), described the nature of the EAPSI program, saying that it differs from NSF's regular grant programs in that it provides US graduate students with what can be a life-changing experience.

JSPS carries out an annual Summer Program to provide opportunities for young pre- and postdoctoral researchers from North America and Europe to receive an orientation on Japanese culture and research systems and to pursue research under the guidance of host researchers at Japanese universities and research institutes over a period of two months during the summer. In implementing the program, JSPS enjoys the cooperation of NSF and its other partner agencies in the participating countries.

In the US, NSF carries out the abovementioned EAPSI program,

which introduces US graduate students to East Asia and Pacific science and engineering within the context of a research setting, and helps them initiate scientific relationships that will better enable future collaboration with counterparts in the program's respective locations. The program is implemented by nine counterpart agencies, including JSPS, in seven countries and regions.

For the 2011 EAPSI program, NSF received a total of 610 applications. Through 2-day deliberations conducted in subpanels for each field of science and engineering, approximately 200 candidates were selected, including 65 bound for Japan. They will be nominated to JSPS as fellows in the JSPS Summer Program. If accepted, JSPS will send each of them a formal letter of invitation.

Fellowships for the Summer Program will be awarded for a period of ten weeks from 14 June to 24 August 2011. The JSPS Washington Office is pleased to assist the fellows in ways that will help make their stays in Japan most fruitful.

— JSPS Washington Office

# JSPS Executive Director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi Delivers Lectures at Chinese Universities

From 17-21 October, JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi visited China, where he gave invited lectures at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) and Tsinghua University. The two universities invited Dr. Kobayashi to lecture as a 2008 Nobel Prize laureate in physics. His first lecture delivered in



Dr. Kobayashi at SJTU

SJTU's library lecture hall was titled "Violation of Matter-Antimatter Symmetry." At it, some 300 people filled the hall beyond its seating capacity. Prior to his lecture, Dr. Kobayashi held an exchange of views with Prof. Dexiu Ma, chairperson of the University Council, SJTU, and SJTU president Dr. Jie Zhang, in which they discussed the state of China's higher education, student-exchange strategies, and research posture.

Moving to Beijing, Dr. Kobayashi visited Tsinghua University, where he addressed about 80 members of the physics faculty in the lecture hall of the university's School of Sciences on the theme "Electric Dipole Moment and Duality." On his last day in China, he gave a lecture in the renowned forum "Tsinghua Global Vision Lecture Series," held in the university's Department of Engineering Physics, captivating an audience of some 200 people. Dr. Kobayashi added his name to the register of distinguished speakers at a signing ceremony held following the lecture. Through the series of lectures he gave in China, Dr. Kobayashi was able to speak directly to audiences about his research that won a Nobel Prize in physics and field their many questions, inspiring Chinese students and young researchers who promise to become the next generations of talented scientists.

- JSPS Beijing Office

## **JSPS Fellow Alumni Association Established in China**

In FY 2008, the JSPS Beijing Office began making preparation to establish the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China. Now, the preparations have been completed and the alumni association officially established. On 20 November, the association's inaugural Congress was held in the China Hall of Science and Technology, located in Haidian District of Beijing. Hastening to the meeting were about 160 alumni from throughout China—all the way from Heilongjiang Province in the far north and Hainan Province in the far south.

From JSPS's Tokyo headquarters, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and International Program Department director Mr. Hisashi Kato came to Beijing to participate in the meeting. They congratulated the Chinese alumni on the launching of their asso-

ciation and promised them JSPS's continuing support. As special guests, Mr. Shigeo Yamada, Minister, Embassy of Japan in China, and some 20 directors of the China



Prof. Ono offering congratulations

offices of Japanese universities attended and expressed the importance they hold in creating cooperative relationships with the alumni association.

The association's first chair Prof. Xiang Yu, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and its five vice-chairs, including Prof. Hong Zhang, Zhejiang University, were elected from among the alumni members. Thirty-three council members were also selected, 17 of whom were given collateral positions as district leaders. With its membership hailing from practically all of China's provinces and from most all research fields and with many of its members being active researchers in prominent positions at universities and research institutions, the alumni association's future is very bright.



- JSPS Beijing Office



## Greetings from the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China

## By Its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Xiang Yu



During the period from September 2006 to September 2007, it was my honor to have been granted a research fellowship by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. It gave me the opportunity to do research at the School of Law, Hokkaido University in the beautiful city of Sapporo. I was not only able to study Japan's advanced patent system and its innovation policies in detail, but also got to know the Japanese people, culture and nature in depth. I was very impressed with how hard working many of my Japanese colleagues were, especially my host professor Yoshiyuki Tamura. I found many Japanese people to be very kind, always willing to offer help when I needed it. I also fell in love with Japanese food and the natural beauty of Hokkaido.

After long, meticulous preparatory work done by mainly the staffs of the JSPS Beijing Office, led by Prof. Hiroshi Fukunishi, on 20 November 2010 a Founding Ceremony for the JSPS Fellow Alumni Associa-

tion in China and its first Congress were held in Beijing. As was expressed in the speeches of JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono and Minister Shigeo Yamada of the Japanese Embassy in China, JSPS is one of the best-known and most influential academic foundations in Japan. The scholars awarded JSPS fellowships around the world are among the most excellent in their respective countries. Thus, I saw the establishment of the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China as being an important and effective tool for building many bridges between China and Japan, over which science, research and culture can cross and find fruitful soil for mutual cooperation and exchange.

Up to February 2010, twelve JSPS alumni associations had already been established by JSPS alumni in Germany, France, the UK, the US, Sweden, India, Egypt, Kenya, Korea, Bangladesh, Finland and Thailand. At the same time, over a thousand Chinese JSPS Fellows had returned to China, making the founding of the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China a very important milestone for both JSPS and its Chinese alumni

All of the JSPS alumni in China are like a family: We share a common objective of promoting scientific and cultural exchange between China and Japan in liaison with JSPS and its Beijing Office. In pursuit of this objective, our association will provide personal and expert guidance to Chinese

researchers regarding JSPS's fellowship programs and will support Japanese researchers working in China. Furthermore, our association will facilitate information exchange among its members, conduct joint activities with academic institutions and science-promotion agencies, and disseminate information regarding Japanese science, technology, society and culture.

In being elected the founding chairman of the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China, I appreciate very much the trust vested in me by all the association members and JSPS staffs. I know this post carries with it a very great obligation. I believe, however, that assisted by the vice-chairmen and other council members and receiving the cooperation of all the association members and the support of JSPS, especially its Beijing Office, we can continually advance the development of our association while moving forward in achieving its important objectives.



Prof. Yu at inaugural Congress

## **Call for JARC-Net Registration**

JSPS operates the Japan-Asia Research Community Network (JARC-Net) as a researcher information database. Its purpose is to support the maintenance and expansion of working networks between researchers in Japan and other countries of the Asian region, which have been cultivated over long years through JSPS programs, including fellowships, researcher exchanges, joint projects and seminars.

Registered members of the database are able to access other members' profiles, including their names, affiliations, positions, research fields, and education/work histories. They can then use this information to look for new research partners or to broaden support for their activi-

ties by mobilizing past colleagues, such as university or JSPS program alumni, from Asian countries. Members are also provided an information mail service on JSPS's exchange and cooperation programs within the Asian community. JARC-Net is open to all those who are interested in research cooperation and network building in Asia.

To register onto JARC-Net or peruse the site, please visit the following website:

http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-astrategy/jarcnet.html

- Asian Program Division

## **Large-scale Climate Change Forum Held in Bangkok**

On 6-7 January, a forum on "Climatic Changes in Monsoon Asia" was held by the JSPS Bangkok Office at the Siam City Hotel with the cooperation and support of the National Research Council of Thailand. This 2-day event gathered together researchers and practitioners from the Asian region east of Pakistan. The 170



participants, including 37 invited lecturers, engaged in animated discussions. Five of the lecturers offered concrete, bird's-eye proposals on ways to mitigate the societal impact of global environmental changes in the monsoon Asian region. Among the lecturers were also several researchers who are playing instrumental roles in drafting the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Assembling these and other leading researchers who are carrying out such international projects as MAHASRI (Monsoon Asian Hydro-Atmosphere Scientific Research and Prediction Initiative), the forum was highly significant in generating and disseminating scientific knowledge from the monsoon Asian region to the wider world. It was also successful in offering an opportunity for young researchers to present their work in a poster session. JSPS was happy to sponsor this forum, which enjoyed parity in depth and scale with similar conferences held in the US and Europe, as it testified to the impact of our initiatives in the Asian region.

- JSPS Bangkok Office

## Colloquium on "Direct Imaging in Bio/Medical Science" Held in Sweden

Sponsored by the JSPS Stockholm Office, the above-titled colloquium was held at Lund University on 18 January. The event was planned by Prof. Yoshinori Fujiyoshi, Kyoto University, and Prof. Reine Wallenberg, Lund University, who were respectively referred by Prof. Osamu Terasaki, Stockholm University, and Prof. Sven Lidin, Lund University.

Over recent years, there has been a growing fusion between research in biology/life science and physics/chemistry. This interdisciplinarity is accelerating the advancement of biology by providing new openings for elucidating various mechanisms needed to sustain life. In seeking to better understand biological functions, "direct imaging" is becoming increasingly important as it allows selective visualization of the microstructures of specific molecular parts of an organism.

Under the sub-themes "Importance of imaging and image processing," "TEM techniques," "Optical imaging," and "Magnetic resonance imaging/PET," leading researchers from Sweden and Japan delivered presentations on the latest progress made and unique approaches employed in the direct imaging field. Some 50 researchers and students participated actively in the colloquium,



some coming all the way from Stockholm and Linköping. A poster session gave young Swedish and Japanese researchers an animated opportunity to exchange views and hone their expertise as the field's future trailblazers.

JSPS Stockholm Office

## Joint JSPS/JETRO Conference Held in London

On 18 January, a joint conference was held between JSPS and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). It combined the JSPS London Office's meeting of Japanese researchers in the UK with JETRO London's conference of heads of Japanese R&D institutes in the UK in a program to promote exchange between UK-based researchers in the academic and corporate sectors, 35 of whom attended the event.

The conference opened with remarks from JSPS London Office

director Prof. Kozo Hiramatsu and JETRO London director general Mr. Takashi Funaki, after whom presentations were delivered, providing an overall view of the activities of Japanese corporate and academic researchers in the UK. They were followed by presentations from a representative of both sides: Dr. Shuichi Uchikoga, deputy managing director, Toshiba Cambridge Research Laboratory, spoke about the activities and personnel policy of his research center, while Dr. Kenichi Soga, professor, University of

Cambridge, talked about the Cambridge's college system and its effort to foster young researchers through collaboration with industry. In the process, he identified issues and measures that could help to improve the development of human resources in Japan. In the ensuing free discussion period, a candid exchange of views offered the participating researchers meaningful ideas on how they might conceptualize their future activities.

In the relaxed atmosphere of the get-together following the meeting, the participants engaged in spirited conversation in a manner epitomizing the conference theme "Getting to know each other." The events of the day were, in fact, very fruitful in promoting mutual understanding, auguring future linkage and cooperation between the two sides.



- JSPS London Office

## **JSPS London Programme Introduction Days**

Every year, the staff of JSPS London visit various universities in the UK to give briefings on JSPS's programs. During the period from October through January of this year, PR events were held at eight British universities: University of Liverpool, University of Glasgow, University of Southampton, University of York, University of Nottingham, Aston University, Cardiff University, and University of Oxford.

At each event, the staff gave a presentation introducing JSPS fellowship and other program offerings. It was followed each time by a member of the JSPS alumni association who gave a talk on his or her experiences as a JSPS fellow in Japan. A booth was also set up to answer questions and pass out JSPS brochures and the London Office's promotion materials.

At the University of York, Prof. John Local, pro-vice-chancellor for research, offered opening remarks. In a similar way, each visited university participated proactively in the event, engendering heightened interest in JSPS among their faculties and student bodies. Each event enjoyed great volleys of questions fielded by the participants. The success of the events could also be measured by the strong interest shown by the students who visited the booth in JSPS fellowships for research in Japan.



- JSPS London Office

## Symposium on Kabuki Held in Hawaii

On 13-14 November, a symposium and workshop titled "Kabuki: Negotiating Historical, Geographical, and Cultural Borders" was held at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). It was co-



Performance by UHM students

sponsored by UHM's Center for Japanese Studies and JSPS, with support from the Consulate General of Japan at Honolulu.

Open to the public, the first day's symposium addressed how kabuki has developed over the centuries in Japan and has been received and performed outside Japan. Lectures were given by prominent researchers from the US and Japan and a kabuki demonstration was performed by UHM students. The history of kabuki in Hawaii dates back more than 100 years when it was performed by immigrants and actors from Japan. Kabuki in the English language has been performed by students at UHM for 87 years. The symposium was attended by many members of the public, whose numbers swelled for the kabuki demonstration.

The second day's workshop, attended by all of the symposium lecturers, featured a spirited exchange of views on the linkage between rural kabuki in Japan and kabuki as performed in America and on the spread of kabuki throughout the country. The discussion was advanced with an eye to putting on a kabuki festival in the near future.

- JSPS San Francisco Office

## **Workshop Held in Paris on Conservation of Cultural Heritage**

The JSPS Strasbourg Office held, in cooperation with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), a French-Japanese workshop on the theme "Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage" in Paris on 4-5 November. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Michel Menu, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), and Dr. Nobuyuki Kamba, Tokyo National Museum.

It started off with remarks from Mr. Kazuya Ogawa, Embassy of Japan in France; Mr. Jean-Luc Clément, French Ministry of Higher Education and Research; Ms. Donatienne Hissard, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Mr. Christophe Dessaux, French Ministry of Culture and Communication; Prof. Gilberte Chambaud, CNRS; and Mr. Takayoshi Seiki, JSPS.

More than 100 people, including 15 French and Japanese



speakers, participated in the event, which gave the audience an opportunity to enjoy hearing about what goes on behind the exhibit of art objects in museums of the two countries.

- JSPS Strasbourg Office

## **Event to Introduce Educational Institutions Held in Germany**

On 5 November, an event to introduce Japanese universities and Japan-visit programs was held at the University of Freiburg (UF) in Freiburg, Germany. This event is put on every year by the JSPS Bonn Office, which invites the participation of Japanese universities with offices in Europe. Its purpose is to raise interest within Germany in Japanese higher education and opportunities to par-



ticipate in it. Some 50 people, mainly UF teachers and students, attended the event. An unprecedented 12 organizations participated in it, including the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne (The Japan Foundation), Nagoya University's European Center on UF's campus, the University of Tsukuba's International Office in Bonn, and the German JSPS Club.

The event kicked off with remarks by JSPS Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, followed by UF vice rector Prof. Dr. Jürgen Rühe. Then, there was an introduction of JSPS programs, presentations by each organization, and talks by three past JSPS program participants on their research experiences in Japan. Each of the participating organizations gave a 10 to 20-minute presentations on their operations and visit programs. A special corner was set up in the hall where the students and other attendees could obtain materials and receive briefings on each organization during the coffee breaks.

- JSPS Bonn Office

## Science Dialogue Demo Held at Science Agora 2010

Under the Science Dialogue Program, JSPS postdoctoral fellows go to high schools in their host institution's vicinities around Japan and give lectures in English. This novel educational program allows the students to study both science and English while listening to and communicating with the young overseas researchers.

On 20 November, a demonstration of a Science Dialogue lecture was put on at Science Agora 2010, held in Tokyo by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Attended by anyone who was interested, it offered an opportunity for a great many people to get a taste of this fascinating lecture series, which can normally only be experienced by students in a Japanese high school.

The demo lecture was delivered by Dr. Jean-Michel Fustin on the subject "biological clock." Coming to Japan from Belgium, he is doing research at Kyoto University. Speaking in English, intermixed with occasional Japanese commentary, he fielded slews of questions from the participating students. That unfolding scene of questions asked and answered in English gave one the feeling of being in an international conference. It was clear that the students,



some of whom are aspiring scientists, gained new confidence along with a stronger perception of the need to keep studying English via this experience of talking about science with the JSPS fellow. After the event, Dr. Fustin said he derived fresh energy for his research from interacting with the students.

- Overseas Fellowship Division

## Recent Visitors to JSPS (November 2010-January 2011)

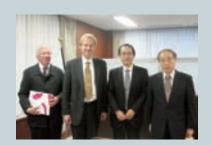
#### **Nobel Museum Director**

On 11 November, Nobel Museum director Dr. Olov Amelin made a courtesy visit to JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono. He first introduced the museum's travelling exhibition. Prof. Ono touched upon the high interest that the Japanese people have in the Nobel Prize, now all the more so with the new Nobel Prizes in Chemistry awarded to Dr. Akira Suzuki and Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi. With JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Kobayashi (2008 Nobel Laureate in Physics) joining in, a

free discussion was held on support for scientific research.

It was confirmed that JSPS and the Nobel Museum will work together in preparing the Nobel Museum's travelling exhibition and the Exhibit Corner of Japanese Nobel Prize Winners—"Dialogue with Alfred Nobel" scheduled to be held at the National Museum of Nature and Science this fall in Ueno, Tokyo.

Research Cooperation Division I





The following fellows participated in JSPS's Science Dialogue Program during the period from October through December 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 and 1999 are program for the period from October 1999 areber 2010. For details about the program, please see its website: http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/e-sdialogue/.

- Overseas Fellowship Division

#### **Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo Senior High School**

Date: 10 November Dr. Rizalita R. Edpalina

(Philippines)

Host institution: Kanazawa University Title: "Understanding Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems Research"



#### Gifu Prefectural Gizan Senior High School

Date: 6 December Dr. Radhouane B. J. Chaffai

(Tunisia)

Host institution: Gifu University Title: "Advancements of Plant Research Using Microarray"





#### **Fukui Prefectural Takefu High School**

Date: 18 November Dr. Fan Bai (China)

Host institution: Osaka University Title: "Flagellar Motor and Bacterial

Motility"



#### Gifu Prefectural Ogaki Higashi Senior High School

Date: 24 November Dr. Jocelyn Bedard (Canada) Host institution: Osaka University Title: "The Long Road to the Chlo-

roplast!"



#### **Fukushima Prefectural Soma High School**

Date: 15 December

Dr. Tinh X. Nguyen (Vietnam) Host institution: Tohoku University Title: "Do You Like the Sea?"



#### Ichikawa Gakuen Ichikawa Senior High School (Chiba)

Date: 1 October

Dr. Seyed Javad Zafarmand (Iran) Host institution: Chiba University Title: "An Analytical Approach to Product Subjective Sustainability"



#### Gifu Prefectural Ena High School

Date: 16 November Dr. Peng Zhang (China) Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Commenting to Student English Presentations"

Date: 8 December

Dr. Akhmad Sabarudin (Indonesia) Host institution: Nagoya University

Title: "Flow-Based Methods in Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry"



Date: 10 November Dr. Ahmed S. I. Bakry (Egypt) Host institution: Tokyo Medical and **Dental University** Title: "Teeth Are Your Gate for a

Happy Life"

#### **Gunma Prefectural Takasaki High School**

Date: 13-14 November Dr. Shahidur M. Rahman

(Bangladesh)

Host institution: Saitama University Title: "Ubiquitous Speech Process-

ing: Facing the Challenge"



Dr. Jean Coupon (France) Host institution: Tohoku University Title: "Measuring the Universe"



Dr. Qingmin Ji (China)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science

Title: "The Compartment Films Composed by Hollow Mesoporous Capsules for Stimuli-free Releasing and Controllable Gas Sensing"



Dr. Julio C. Villena (Argentina) Host institution: Tohoku University Title: "Lactic Acid Bacteria for the Prevention of Respiratory Infections: The Contributions of an Argentinean Laboratory to the Scientific Knowledge of Immunobiotics"



Dr. Won Fen Wong (Malaysia) Host institution: Tohoku University Title: "Genes, Cell and Our Health"



Dr. Effah K. Antwi (Ghana) Host institution: The University of Tokvo Title: "Effect of Mining on Land Use

Change"

Junior High and Senior High School at Komaba, **University of Tsukuba (Tokyo)** 



Title: "Tunneling Effect and Its Application & Making of Graphene"



Date: 20 November (Science Agora 2010) Dr. Jean-Michel Fustin (Belgium)

Host institution: Kyoto University Title: "The Biological Clock"



#### **Ikeda High School (Kagoshima)**

Date: 15 November Dr. Thiraporn Charoenraks

(Thailand)

Host institution: Kumamoto University Title: "Chemistry Is All Around Us'



#### Miyazaki Prefectural Nobeoka High School

Date: 2 November Dr. Yan Wang (China) Host institution: Oita University Title: "Transcription Factors for Regulation of Ion Channels' Expression'



#### **Nagano Prefecture Yashiro High School**



Date: 5 November Dr. Stephen P. Obrochta (USA) Host institution: The University of

Tokyo

Title: "How Will Climate Change in the Future? Reconstructing Past Climates to Understand the Climate

#### Seishin High School & Junior High School (Ibaraki)

Date: 30 October

Dr. Md. A. Samad (Bangladesh) Host institution: University of Tsukuba Title: "Function of B23, a Multifunctional Host Protein in Adenovirus Life

Cycle"



Dr. Raphael Antoine (France) Host institution: The University of Tokyo



Dr. Alka Saxena (Australia) Host institution: RIKEN Title: "My Journey as a Researcher"



Dr. Deshui Yu (China) Host institution: The University of

Title: "Development of Optical Lattice Clock"



#### Niigata Municipal Bandai Senior High School (Niigata)

Date: 30 November

Dr. Alexander S. Savchenko

(Russia)

Host institution: Niigata University Title: "Atherosclerosis and Metabolic

Syndrome"



#### Yokohama City Municipal Yokohama Science Frontier **High School (Kanagawa)**

Date: 27-28 October

Dr. Xiang Lin (New Zealand)

Host institution: The University of

Title: "Medical Robot & Life & Future'



#### Shizuoka Kita High School (Shizuoka)

Date: 25 October

Dr. Eniola Fabusoro (Nigeria) Host institution: The University of

Title: "Culture, Institute and Devel-

opment"



Dr. Anita Swami (India)

Host institution: Tokyo Institute of

Technology

Title: "Introduction to Nanoscience

and Nanotechnology"



Date: 27 October

Dr. Simon J. Illingworth (UK)

Title: "Controlling Fluid Flows"



Dr. David Orozco Suarez (Spain)

Host institution: National Institutes of

Natural Sciences

Title: "The Many Faces of the Sun"



Host institution: Keio University



Date: 27 October

Dr. Alexander N. Zahlten

(Germany)

Host institution: Meiji Gakuin Uni-

versity

Title: "Images and Movement"







Date: 8 November

Host institution: Keio University

Dr. Simon J. Illingworth (UK) Title: "Controlling Fluid Flows"



Dr. Simin Rahighi (Iran)

Host institution: High Energy Accelerator Research Organization Title: "Protein Crystallography: A Tool to Understand Protein Structures at Atomic Levels"





Date: 8 October

Dr. Gora Diop (Senegal) Host institution: Kyoto University Title: "Human Genetic and Infectious Diseases: A View from HIV

and HTLV-1 Virus"



Dr. Marc Ferras Font (Spain)

Host institution: Tokyo Institute of

Technology

Title: "Speech Technologies"



Date: 26 November

#### Dr. Wassana Wijagkanalan

(Thailand)

Host institution: Kyoto University Title: "From the Magic Bullet Concept

to Drug Delivery System"



Dr. Antonio De Felice (Italy) Host institution: Tokyo University of

Science

Title: "Introduction to Cosmology"



Dr. Javier A. Ramon (Spain) Host institution: University of Hyogo

Title: "Nanotechnology and Biosen-

sors'



Dr. Jenyuk Lohwacharin (Thailand) Host institution: The University of

Title: "Advancement in Water Treatment Processes"



# Series

## Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow (21)

Hailing from Thailand, Dr. Thiraporn Charoenraks has been conducting research with her host Dr. Makoto Takafuji in the Department of Applied Chemistry & Biochemistry, Kumamoto University under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship since November 2009. After obtaining her master's degree in Thailand, she was selected for a Japanese government scholarship to pursue her graduate studies at Saga University from 2005.

#### What are you currently researching under your JSPS fellowship?

Many organic molecules, such as proteins and sugars, are chiral, occurring in a right- and left-handed form in mirror images of each other. I am working on developing a novel self-assembling method for separating chiral compounds, which utilizes high performance liquid chromatography, an instrument to separate compounds dissolved in liquid mixtures. I am analyzing the chiral stationary phase of such solutions with an eye to creating a chiral separation technique that can be readily applied to such things as scientific measurements and medical drug manufacturing.

#### How did you become interested in your research field?

When I studied the chromatographic method in college, I was impressed by how this unique system could easily separate mixtures. I also liked how it can be broadly applied within the field of chemistry. So I got more and more into studying chemistry. But looking back to my childhood, I liked subjects such as math and science. Therefore, I think my interest in chemistry ignited a long time ago.

#### Is there any difference between the research environments of Thailand and Japan?

In Thailand, most of the equipment used for research is shared among many students, with some of the analytical devices being far fewer than the number of students. Therefore, our names may linger on a waiting list, sometimes for as long as a couple of weeks, before we can start analyzing materials.

I have much more flexibility in conducting my research here at Kumamoto University as both equipment and devices are made sufficiently available. Also, researchers in other laboratories are happy to share their equipment when needed immediately by other researchers

Another difference I've noticed is that most research in Japan is conducted by the

researchers themselves, whereas in Thailand the operation of large equipment is limited to technicians.

#### How did you get to know your Japanese host researcher?

I came to Japan to pursue a PhD at Saga University as a Japanese government scholar. At that time, I was hoping to continue my research career in Japan as a postdoc and was interested in living in Kyushu. I searched the Internet for a prospective host researcher in my research field and was lucky to find not only a person who was a perfect match for my research but also a suitable institution located in Kyushu. Soon after making this discovery, I sent emails to Dr. Takafuji, my current host researcher, asking him if he would become my host researcher at Kumamoto University.

#### Why did you choose Japan to pursue your research?

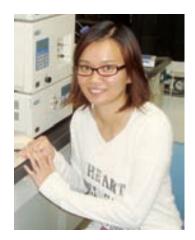
First of all, I thought Japan was a very sophisticated and well-equipped place. It was also true that Japanese researchers and research institutions are well advanced in my research field. When thinking about the country in which to pursue my postdoctoral work, that the Japanese lifestyle is similar to ours in Thailand had strong appeal in making my decision. If I had not been awarded a JSPS fellowship, I would have gone to the US or Europe as they are popular destinations for Thai researchers.

#### What is your impression of your host institution?

In my laboratory, there are about 20 members including five from other countries. The Japanese students are very kind but a little shy when it comes to communicating with me in English. Though it is a bit challenging for me to participate in lab meetings as they are held in Japanese, I'm glad that I can understand much of the discussions as I've been in Japan for four years. Viewed from the vantage point of my laboratory where I've spent most of my time, my overall impression of Kumamoto University as a host institution is very good.

#### How about the colleagues in your laboratory?

All the members of my lab are very serious and concentrated on their research. After work, however, we sometimes hold parties or sporting activities to refresh ourselves and get to personally know each other better. When I encounter trouble, I first turn to my host researcher, but count upon my colleagues in the lab too. I have never experi-



#### **Dr. Thiraporn Charoenraks**

Ph.D. (Chemistry), Saga University, Japan, 2008 M.Sc. (Chemistry), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, 2005

B.Sc. (Chemistry), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, 2002

enced a problem that couldn't be worked out or felt any inconvenient in my lab.

#### Before coming to Japan, what was your image of the country? Has your perception changed after coming here?

My image of Japan was, as I mentioned, a very sophisticated country, where there are many skyscrapers and hi-tech infrastructures, especially the transportation system as epitomized by the bullet train. Also, Japanese animation is very popular with kids and young students in Thailand, and Japanese food is well-liked. I, myself, used to like Tokyo ramen, but since coming to Kyushu my favorite is now Kumamoto ramen. I like sushi, too. I've become a big fan of ika (squid), which is not consumed in Thailand.

#### What are your goals as a researcher?

I would like to develop an effective and efficient technique for chiral separation, which can be applied in industry. With it, I hope to contribute to reducing the time it takes to run experiments and to save various research costs. However, it may take a long time to accomplish this goal since my research experiments usually take three months, and sometimes six, to obtain results. If it doesn't work out, I will have to start over from square one. It is challenging and time-consuming work, but I would like to push it forward with a positive attitude.

#### What do you do outside your research work?

I love to travel. I have visited Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Osaka. My favorite

sightseeing spot in Kumamoto is the area around the volcano Mt. Aso, as it has many hot springs and activities to enjoy, such as hiking, horseback riding, golf and tennis. Visiting the Aso area is enjoyable in all seasons, but if I had to pick one, it would be summer. It is very refreshing to soak in a local spa while viewing the fresh green on the mountain sides. When traveling, I look for local restaurants, especially Japanese ones, and the lovely Japanese cafés.

I hear that you gave a lecture at a high school under the Science Dialogue Program. What did you think of the experience?

At first, I thought it would be difficult to explain my research in English to Japanese high school students. So, I used animations and pictures in my slides to help them understand my research more easily. I also did a simple experiment in the classroom.

I think it was challenging for them, but I felt gratified when the students asked me three questions after my presentation. I believe my presentation was successful in conveying my main message—that chemistry is not far removed from our daily lives but exists everywhere around us.

I would like to tell other fellows who have not yet taken part in this program that the experience is surely a rewarding one.

What do you plan to do after your fellowship ends?

I have not decided yet. However, I would like to continue my research at a Japanese institution.

Do you have any advice for young researchers who may be thinking about doing research in Japan?

Well, I think that finding a good host researcher is the key to success. Under this fellowship, your host plays a vital role in enabling you to achieve your goals. S/he will not only act as your research supervisor, but will also be the first person you go to when needing assistance. Therefore, finding a good researcher who is hospitable is very important.

Good communication with your colleagues is also important. Some young researchers might be hesitant to come to Japan because of the language. Though Japanese is difficult, you can learn it step by step. Please know that the Japanese are kind and happy to help people who are not fluent in Japanese. Language skill will be a plus, but it is not a must for starting research in Japan.

When we asked Dr. Charoenraks what she wanted to do after her JSPS fellowships ends, she said without hesitation that she "would like to continue her research in Japan." Though securing a position in a Japanese university or research institution can be a very competitive undertaking, her positive attitude compelled us to believe that she will be able to continue paving her career path in Japan. As she pursues that path with a strong Thai "mai-pen-rai" spirit, we look forward to it leading both her research and career in highly rewarding directions.

## Introducing Japan: Kumamoto

#### By Dr. Thiraporn Charoenraks

Kumamoto is the name of a prefecture and its capital city at the center of Kyushu island. Symbolic of the area's long history is the Kumamoto Castle, one of Japan's largest and most famous ancient fortresses. The castle is most beautifully viewed in the spring, against a foreground of kimono-clad brides and grooms posing for wedding photos amidst stands of cherry blossom trees.



Kumamoto Castle in background

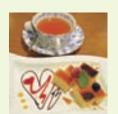
Kumamoto's greatest attraction has to be the still-active, 1,592-meter volcano Mt. Aso, which boasts the world's largest crater basin. Mt. Aso comprises five peaks, each a cratered volcano, and two valleys. The diameter of the mountain's outer rim is nearly 25 kilometers at some points, with a circumference of about 120 kilometers. When the mountain isn't acting up, the peaks are accessible to hikers, while the grassy mountainside plains and lowlands offer a plethora of recreational opportunities, including sightseeing, horseback riding and golf. The mountain's magma fuels a myriad of wonderful hot-spring spas

around the Aso area. Probably the most famous spa is Kurokawa Onsen, a steamy hot-spring village dotted with rustically crafted traditional inns lining a river that runs through its wooded valley.

Besides its famed mountains, Kumamoto has wonderful parks. There is, for example, Suizenji Park with its large Japanese landscape garden featuring crystal clear, springfed ponds and unique motifs of Mt. Fuji and other beautiful spots around Japan. For family fun, one can also visit such venues as the Aso Farm Land or Aso Milk Farm, which allow the visitors to interact with domestic animals, such as by milking cows.

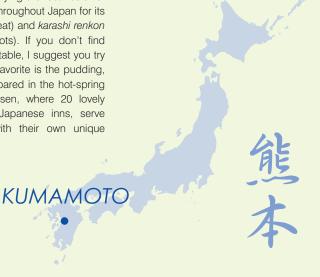
When traveling, I like trying the local cuisine. Kumamoto is known throughout Japan for its basashi (raw horse meat) and karashi renkon (peppery-hot lotus roots). If you don't find these to be that delectable, I suggest you try the local sweets. My favorite is the pudding, especially as it is prepared in the hot-spring town of Tsuetate Onsen, where 20 lovely cafés, some inside Japanese inns, serve pudding prepared with their own unique

recipes. This tradition harkens back to a time when the village spas steamed eggs over their hot springs and made a tasty custard out of them to serve as a treat to guests. Now, one can make a sort of pilgrimage around the town's cafés. Tsuetate Onsen is accessed by bus from Aso Station on the Hohi Main Line.





Lovely pudding set





#### Cover photo:

Flower-adorn branches of a weeping cherry tree cascading in the foreground of a somber-hued Shinto

#### **About ISPS**

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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#### JSPS Fellows Plaza

8 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8472 Tel: +81-3-3263-1872 Fax: +81-3-3263-1854 http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/

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

#### JSPS Washington Office

2001 L Street, N.W., Suite 1050, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA Tel: +1-202-659-8190 Fax: +1-202-659-8199 E-mail: info@jspsusa.org http://www.jspsusa.org/

#### • JSPS San Francisco Office

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260. Berkeley, CA 94704, USA Tel: +1-510-665-1890 Fax: +1-510-665-1891 E-mail: webmaster@ispsusa-sf.org http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/

#### JSPS Bonn Office

Wissenschaftszentrum, Ahrstr. 58, 53175, Bonn, GERMANY Tel: +49-228-375050 Fax: +49-228-957777 E-mail: info@jsps-bonn.de http://www.jsps-bonn.de/

#### JSPS London Office

14 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD, UK Tel: +44-20-7255-4660 Fax: +44-20-7255-4669 E-mail: enquire@jsps.org http://www.jsps.org/

#### JSPS Stockholm Office

Retzius Vag 3, S171 77 Stockholm, SWEDEN Tel: +46-8-5248-4561 Fax: +46-8-31-38-86 E-mail: info@jsps-sto.comhttp://www.jsps-sto.com/

#### JSPS Strasbourg Office

Maison Universitaire France-Japon 42a, avenue de la Forêt-Noire, 67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE Tel: +33-3-6885-2017 Fax: +33-3-6885-2014 E-mail: jsps@japon.u-strasbg.fr http://jsps.u-strasbg.fr/

#### JSPS Bangkok Office

113 TWY Office Center, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl., Serm-mit Tower, 159 Sukhumvit Soi 21, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND Tel: +66-2-661-6453 Fax: +66-2-661-6454 E-mail: bkk02@jsps-th.org http://www.jsps-th.org/

#### JSPS Beijing Office

616 Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) 33 Beisihuan Xilu, Zhongguancun, Beijing 100190, P. R. CHINA Tel: +86-10-6253-8332 Fax: +86-10-6253-8664 E-mail: beijing@jsps.org.cn http://www.jsps.org.cn/

#### ● JSPS Cairo Research Station

9 Al-Kamel Muhammad Street, Flat No.4, Zamalek, Cairo, EGYPT Tel & Fax: +20-2-27363752 E-mail: jspscairo@hotmail.co.jp http://jspscairo.com/

#### ■ JSPS Nairobi Research Station

209/346/39 Riverside Drive Chiromo. Nairobi, KENYA Tel: +254-20-4442424 Fax: +254-20-4442112 E-mail: jsps1@africaonline.co.ke http://www.jspsnairobi.org/