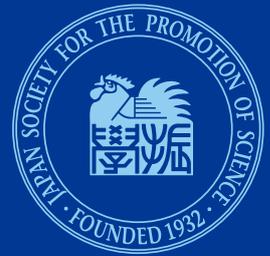


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Presentation Ceremony Held for 2012 International Prize for Biology

On 26 November, the 28th annual ceremony for awarding the International Prize for Biology was held in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress 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 provided by Dr. Noriyuki Satoh, chair of this year's Selection Committee, after which the Prize and an Imperial gift were presented to this year's awardee, Dr. Joseph Altman, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University, USA.

Congratulatory remarks followed from the Prime Minister (read



Dr. Altman receiving Prize in presence of Their Majesties

by Mr. Hirokazu Shiba, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary) and from Ms. Makiko Tanaka, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The ceremony concluded with an acceptance address from Dr. Altman.

At the reception following the ceremony, a congenial atmosphere prevailed with Their Majesties and Dr. Altman 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 "Neurogenesis throughout Life" was held on 28-29 November at RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology (CDB), Kobe.



Dr. Altman talking with Emperor Akihito

Acceptance Address by Dr. Joseph Altman

I greatly appreciate to be awarded the 2012 International Prize for Biology and thus join the roster of distinguished scientists who received this honor in the preceding years. I am grateful to Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress not only for granting this honor but also for their appreciation and great interest in the advancement of science as a worldwide international enterprise. I also wish to thank the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and the Selection Committee for giving me this award. And I will take this opportunity to thank my wife and collaborator, Dr. Shirley Bayer-Altman, who played such an important role in the research for which this award is given and who has provided me with moral support for over 40 years.

Our research began in the early 1960s with a simple experiment, the study of gliacell proliferation following experimentally induced brain injury. At that time

a new technique, autoradiography, became available to study cell proliferation. By injecting adult rats with radioactively labeled thymidine, a specific precursor of DNA, it became possible to visualize multiplying cells. To our surprise we found that in addition to the labeled glia cells in the vicinity of the lesion site, there were also some labeled neurons some distance from the damaged area. This was quite puzzling since we were taught that no neurons are generated after birth. We proceeded to study the pattern of neuron labeling in normal rats. In the succeeding years we established that the precursors of granule cells (micro-neurons) of the cerebellar cortex were multiplying for several weeks after birth. So were the precursors of granule cells of the hippocampal dentate gyrus and the olfactory bulb. Indeed granule cells in the dentate gyrus and olfactory bulb were also labeled throughout adulthood. Our studies indicated that the precursor

cells which give rise to specific populations of granule cells reside in specialized germinal matrices. In the cerebellum this matrix is the external germinal layer; in the hippocampus, the subgranular zone; and in the case of the olfactory bulb, the precursor cells originate in the cortical subventricular zone and reach the bulb by way of the rostral migratory stream.

To substantiate that the labeled cells are truly new neurons, we proceeded to use alternate techniques. One of them was the simple descriptive procedure of counting identifiable granule cells in the cerebellum, hippocampus and the olfactory bulb as a function of postnatal age; the results confirmed that the number of granule cells increases with age in all these brain areas. We also used exposure to radiation as an experimental technique because multiplying cells are extremely radiosensitive. We selectively exposed the cerebellum, hippocampus and olfactory bulbs of baby

rats at different ages to low-level x-rays. The experiments indicated that cerebellar irradiation destroyed the external granular layer, and depending on the time of the exposure this germinal matrix succeeded or failed to regenerate. Failure of regeneration caused a reduction in the granule cell population and led to locomotor and postural abnormalities similar to those produced by cerebellar pathologies. Early hippocampal irradiation led to a paucity of granule cells and that led to such abnormalities as hyperactivity and attentional and learning deficits.

Although our research created considerable interest in the 1960s, our peers ignored our demonstrations for some time, as they did Michael Kaplan's confirmatory studies in the mid-1970s. Fernando Nottebohm and his associates rekindled interest in the problem of adult neurogenesis in the 1980s, and by the 1990s the problem became the subject of intensive research by Elizabeth Gould, Gerd Kempermann, Tatsunori Seki, and other investigators. We are extremely pleased in the growing worldwide interest in the subject, including here in Japan.

The demonstration of postnatal and adult neurogenesis suggests that the structural organization of the brain is more dynamic than it was assumed in the past. It remains a challenging experimental and clinical task to determine to what extent that dynamism offers potential remedies for the many aberrations and pathologies of brain function.

Let me end by thanking again Their Majesties and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for this great honor.

— General Affairs Division

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka Wins Nobel Prize and JSPS President Participates in Nobel Week Events

The Nobel Prize Award Ceremony is held every year on 10 December. The week surrounding the ceremony is called Nobel Week, over which various events are carried out. Most prominent among them are the Nobel Ceremony and Banquet, attracting worldwide attention. Especially with Dr. Shinya Yamanaka (director of the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application at Kyoto University) having won the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, these events were covered with much gusto over several days on the full array of Japanese media including television.

On the 7th, Dr. Yamanaka delivered a Nobel Lecture in the Jacob Berzelius Lecture Hall of Karolinska Institutet. The lecture hall and its monitoring room overflowed with more than 700 media people from around the world and students from in and outside Sweden. Thanking his mentors, colleagues and family, Dr. Yamanaka sprinkled his lecture with humor and anecdotes when talking about his background and research experience, evoking an exuberant reaction from the audience. On the 8th, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden held a special congratulatory reception attended among others by Japanese researchers studying and working in Sweden, who derived new zeal from episodes Dr. Yamanaka shared with them of his own challenging experiences as an overseas student.

The 10th saw Nobel Week's main events: First was the Award Ceremony held in the Stockholm Concert Hall from 4:30 p.m., coinciding with the date and time that Alfred Nobel had passed away. Shifting venues to the Stockholm City Hall, the Nobel Banquet was then held in the presence of the Royal Family of Sweden. Covered live on local television, the banquet is always the talk of the town with the handsome attire of its guests, sumptuous meals and splendid tableware, and entertaining shows. A long span of coverage was given to Dr. Yamanaka chatting with H.R.H. Princess Madeleine.

Both the Nobel Award Ceremony and Banquet were attended by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, representing the funding



Dr. Yamanaka with Dr. Anzai

agency that has and continues to support Dr. Yamanaka's research. Meeting Dr. Yamanaka in person, Dr. Anzai congratulated him on his momentous achievement. While in Stockholm, Dr. Anzai also visited the Karolinska Institutet, Nobel Museum and Japanese Embassy, where he engaged in stimulating conversations while promoting international exchange in scientific research between Sweden and Japan.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

JSPS Stockholm Office Participates in Danish Research Funding Meeting

On 27 November, a forum titled “Information Meeting on Danish, European and Japanese Funding Sources for Collaboration and Exchange” was held at Aalborg University (AAU) in Denmark. At it, presentations were given on a variety of science funding sources and exchange projects by Mr. Toshio Sano, Ambassador of Japan



to Denmark, Dr. Toshiyasu Ichioka, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, Dr. Asaki Toshiyuki, Shionogi Pharmaceutical Research Center, Prof. Yoshiaki Fujii, director, JSPS Stockholm Office, Dr. Rasmus Bertelsen, former JSPS fellow and postdoctoral researcher, AAU’s Department of Learning and Philosophy, and Mr. Søren A. Nielsen, technology director, Universal Foundation. Prof. Fujii used the platform to introduce the role of the Stockholm Office and the heretofore implementation of JSPS’s international joint research and fellowship programs in Denmark. The meeting was a great success having attracted the attendance of more than 70 people including researchers in Danish corporations, university faculty, and researchers across a range of natural and social science fields.

Former JSPS fellow Dr. Bertelsen had asked the JSPS Stockholm Office to participate in this meeting. We look forward to using future meetings as an opportunity for our office to create ties with past Danish fellows and initiate new exchanges with Denmark.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

Frontiers of Science Symposia Held with the US, Germany and France



The ninth Japanese-German Frontiers of Science (JGFoS) symposium was held in Potsdam in October, the thirteenth Japanese-American Frontiers of Science (JAFoS) symposium in Irvine, California, in December, and the seventh Japanese-French Frontiers of Science (JFFoS) symposium in

Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, in January. These symposia, aimed at networking talented young researchers while fostering the next generation of science leaders, were held by JSPS in partnership with the National Academy of Sciences in the US, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany, and the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Ministries of Higher Education and Research and of Foreign and European Affairs in France.

During these FoS symposia, the participating 60-80 young



Japanese-American Frontiers of Science (JAFoS) symposium

researchers (30-40 from each Japan and the counterpart country) lodged together in a hotel to expand the time they had to get to know and interact with each other. Over the 3-day events, speakers gave presentations on the interesting aspects of various cutting-edge scientific topics, about which the participants engaged in free discussions. This format provides a challenging yet valuable opportunity for the speakers who must convey what’s fascinating about their fields to other researchers, many of whom are not conversant in their jargon when listening to the presentations or feeding back their ideas when discussing them. The participants, on the other hand, are given the chance to learn about and discuss cutting-edge research topics across interdisciplinary lines with frontline researchers in each of the subject fields. In FoS symposia, there is no question that can’t be asked: Even the simplest inquiries may probe the heart of an issue. It was amidst this sort of free atmosphere that the participants enjoyed a world purely devoted to science away from the bustle of their everyday working environment. As in the past, the discussions were propelled by the mediation of the session coordinators played by planning group members, the meticulous preparation of the chairs and speakers, and the vigorous voicing of views and questions by the participants.

To promulgate the allure of the FoS symposium program, JSPS has created a logo mark. Its varicolored spirals symbolize the rich interplay among diverse researchers and research fields, while its spatial expansiveness connotes the vast potential of science and of young researchers working in concert to expand its frontiers.

— Research Cooperation Division II



Japanese-German Frontiers of Science (JGFoS) symposium



Japanese-French Frontiers of Science (JFFoS) symposium

JSPS Anniversary Week in London

JSPS 80th Anniversary Event

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science was established during a time of severe economic depression in 1932 by way of an endowment from the Emperor Showa. Since then, JSPS has developed into Japan's largest research funding agency supporting basic scientific research in all fields and at all stages including the postgraduate level. To celebrate its 80th anniversary, JSPS London held a lavish event in the elegant ballroom of the Japanese Embassy in London on 14 November. Nearly 200 guests attended the symposium and evening reception, among them academics, industry stakeholders, and JSPS alumni. Opening remarks were given by JSPS President Dr. Yuichiro Anzai and Mr. Keiichi Hayashi, Ambassador of Japan to the UK, who both paid tribute to JSPS for its contributions to scientific advancement and international collaboration. Then, Prof. Martyn Poliakoff, Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the Royal Society, spoke about the excellent working relationship enjoyed between his Society and JSPS over the span of four decades.

The theme of the symposium was "building resilient infrastructure, smart cities and society." Its lecture session was presided over by JSPS London Office Director Prof. Kozo Hiramatsu and divided into the three areas: smart infrastructure, public policies for energy systems, and standards. Leading academics from the UK and Japan delivered presentations.

At the reception, JSPS's anniversary was celebrated by breaking the seal of a large barrel of *sake* in a traditional *Kagami*



Speakers at JSPS 80th Anniversary Event

Biraki ceremony to the rapturous applause of the audience. This was followed by an award ceremony to recognize the achievements of some UK JSPS Alumni Association members in strengthening UK-Japan academic links and to present awards to finalists of the JSPS 80th anniversary photo competition, which brought this celebratory event to a close.



Member of UK JSPS Alumni Association receiving Furusato Award

UK-Japan Symposia

On 12-13 November, JSPS London teamed up with the Cambridge Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction to hold an "International Smart Infrastructure Symposium" at the University of Cambridge. Its purpose was to create research linkages in the field

of smart infrastructure between the UK and Japan, while exploring business opportunities using new sensor and data management technologies. Over the two days of the symposium, some 120 people participated including British and Japanese researchers, in fields including societal infrastructure, information, electrical engineering, and traffic engineering, and business representatives from the two countries.



Speakers and participants at University of Cambridge symposium

On 15-16 November, JSPS London co-organized an Anglo-Japan Symposium, titled "Building Resilient Infrastructure and Society—Drawing on Experiences of Tohoku Earthquake in 2011." Held at University College London, the event attracted about 30 researchers in such fields as civil engineering and traffic engineering, who gave presentations and exchanged views on an array of topics including the effects of and lessons learned from the Tohoku Earthquake, improving the resilience of infrastructures, and energy-saving behaviour during energy shortages.

— JSPS London Office

JSPS Bonn Office and German JSPS Club Events Held in Munich

On 16 and 17 November, three events were held in Munich. They were organized by the JSPS Bonn Office and the German JSPS Club (alumni association).

Introducing Programs to Research and Study in Japan

On the morning of 16 November, a “Research and Study in Japan” meeting was held in cooperation between the JSPS Bonn Office and the University of Technology, Munich (TUM). It opened with remarks by the university’s International Office Team director Dr. Ana Santos-Kühn, who was followed by a series of briefings. The Embassy of Japan in Germany explained Japan’s student exchange policy; the Bonn Office described JSPS’s programs for visiting Japan; Waseda University European Center in Bonn introduced the university’s Global 30 campus-internationalization program and its international student policy; the University of Tsukuba European Office, Bonn, described the university’s program for accommodating overseas students; and the Japan Foundation’s Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne outlined the institute’s menu of activities. Then, two former JSPS fellows told about their research experiences at the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University, followed by a report from the German JSPS Club on its activities.

In the intervals between the briefings, Waseda University and JSPS’s Bonn Office used booths to PR their programs, with Nagoya University European Center and Osaka University Groningen Centre for Education and Research passing out pamphlets on theirs. The participants in the meeting were mainly students and educators of TUM and from the Munich area.

Events by the German JSPS Club

In the afternoon, the German JSPS Club held a “Member-Invites-Member” event in which lectures were delivered on the theme “Society and Technological Innovation.” Mr. Akira Mizutani, Consul General of Japan in Muenchen, offered opening remarks, followed by lectures on innovation from German and Japanese



specialists in related fields. Carrying over into the next day, the event’s participants visited Prof. Dr. Thomas Bock’s architectural technology lab at TUM in the morning.

That afternoon, the Club co-hosted a “junior event” with the JSPS Bonn Office. Young German researchers who had participated in JSPS’s Summer Program and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program were invited to attend it with an eye to enrolling them in the Club’s membership. Remarks were offered by Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira and Prof. Dr. Bock while some alumni members and young researchers spoke about their Japan experiences, all amidst a relaxed atmosphere conducive to opinion exchange.

— JSPS Bonn Office

German-Japan Colloquium Held on Cellular Biochemistry

From 29-31 January, the JSPS Bonn Office and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) co-organized and held the ninth German-Japan Colloquium. These colloquiums are held by the Bonn Office every year with rotating counterpart organizations and on different



themes. This fiscal year’s colloquium on “Cellular Biochemistry Shaping Animals” was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Stefan Bräse of KIT and Prof. Dr. Atsuko Sehara Fujisawa of Kyoto University. It gathered together nine researchers from Japan and eight from Germany, including young researchers. They gave research presentations and took a study tour. From JSPS, executive director Dr. Makoto Asashima participated in the colloquium.

At it, research using zebra fish, *medaka* (small Japanese freshwater fish) and mice as model animals was introduced on advancing regenerative mechanisms. Both the speeches and discussions on this topic interwove elements of biology and chemistry in ways that demonstrate how closely they interact.

While Germany and Japan regularly carry out joint research in the area of cellular biochemistry, this colloquium is expected to have given the pursuit an added dimension.

— JSPS Bonn Office

France-Japan Joint Academic Forum Held in Strasbourg

Held on December 21-22, the France-Japan Joint Academic Forum, titled "Surgery for Life Innovation: Information Age and Robotics," was co-organized by JSPS's Strasbourg Office, IRCAD (Research



Institute against Digestive Cancer) and the University of Strasbourg, with support from the Consulate General of Japan in Strasbourg. Over the two days, the latest technologies in minimum invasive surgery from 3D models to surgical instruments were introduced by ten top-class surgeons from France and Japan, led by the co-organizers Prof. Jacques Marescaux, IRCAD, and Prof. Makoto Hashizume, Kyushu University.

Scheduled into the Forum was also a special visit for the speakers and organizers to one of IRCAD's most cutting-edge facilities including surgical training rooms, which added depth to the discussion on future collaboration between the two countries. Enjoying the participation of more than 100 specialists, the Forum gave rise to various possibilities for advancing surgical technologies not only from the surgeon's but also the patient's point of view.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

JSPS Strasbourg Office Held Program Introductory Meeting in Dijon

On 19 November, the JSPS Strasbourg Office held a program introductory meeting at the University of Burgundy in Dijon. The visit was coordinated by two board members of the JSPS French Alumni Association, Prof. Marie-Aleth Lacaille-Dubois and Dr. Jean-Moise Suisse. The JSPS program presentation given by a member of the Office's staff attracted keen attention by the more than 30 attending researchers, who asked for even more detailed information related to their own possible future stays in Japan. This was followed by vibrant comments from six French researchers who had experienced research in Japan under JSPS programs.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to make a courtesy visit to the university president, Prof. Alain Bonnin, in which JSPS's international programs were introduced and discussion held on increasing exchanges of researchers and doctorate students between the university and higher education institutions in Japan. Visits to the university's laboratories revealed a high quality of



research along with a stated enthusiasm over the possibility of expanding French-Japanese collaboration.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

JSPS Washington Office Gives Briefing at Georgia Institute of Technology

On 8 November, our Washington Office held a meeting at Georgia Institute of Technology (GT) in Atlanta, Georgia, to introduce JSPS's programs. Established in 1885, Georgia Tech has a long and illustrious history as one of America's leading universities in fields of engineering and technology. Currently, the university has a faculty of over 900 full-time teachers and researchers and a student body of more than 21,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

Attended by about 30 doctoral students and researchers, the introductory briefing was chaired by Dr. Brian Woodall, associate chair



JSPS staff with Dr. Woodall and students

and graduate director of GT's Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. It started off with remarks by Washington Office director Dr. Osamu Shimomura, who passed the baton to Dr. Gregory David Durgin, associate professor in GT's School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He talked about his experiences living in Japan as a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at Osaka University and about the collaborations his lab is currently carrying out with colleagues in Japan. Next, deputy office director Ms. Fumiyo Kaneko briefed the attendees on the operations and activities of JSPS and its Washington Office, following which an animated Q&A exchange unfolded. The volleys of questions asked included such matters as the nationalities eligible to apply for a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for North American and European Researchers (Short-term), application for the JSPS Summer Program under the National Science Foundation's EAPSI (East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for US Graduate Students) program, whether there are grants for which US researchers may apply, how to go about finding a Japanese host researcher, and whether JSPS has programs in which application is limited to specific research topics.

— JSPS Washington Office

Anniversary of NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program Celebrated

On 5 December, the National Science Foundation (NSF) held a meeting to celebrate the 60th anniversary of its Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program, which was established in 1952 to support American master's and doctoral students selected in fields of science and technology, engineering, and mathematics. Over this 60-year period, some 46,500 students have received fellowships, with 40 of them becoming Nobel laureates and many others going on to become government, science and business leaders. At it, NSF announced a new project, called "Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW)," under which excellent NSF



Graduate Fellows will be dispatched abroad. From 2013, JSPS will participate as an NSF counterpart in implementing this project.

At the meeting, NSF deputy director Dr. Cora Marrett and director Dr. Subra Suresh offered remarks on the past achievements and bright prospects of the GRF program. Then, US Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu (1997 Nobel laureate in physics) used slides to talk about his own career, while voicing appreciation for the support he had received as a Fellow. Next, another former Fellow, Dr. John Holdren, assistant to the President for Science and Technology, offered a congratulatory message. Finally, an event was held to award prizes to winners of a video contest that challenged Fellows to create 90-second videos showing how their research could help shape the future.

JSPS's Washington Office was invited to attend this anniversary celebration as an NSF partner organization. Participating in the planning and implementation of the GROW project, JSPS looks forward to inviting gifted young US researchers to Japan and to their contribution to elevating and internationalizing its S&T domain.

— JSPS Washington Office

JUNBA 2013 Held in San Francisco

On January 11-12, the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) held its annual event bringing together Japanese university leaders to exchange views on educational transformation in a global world. The event was co-organized by the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco and JSPS, with support from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) San Francisco, and was attended by over 100 people including representatives from 15 Japanese universities.

On the symposium's first day, two guest speakers from Stanford University gave engaging presentations on how Stanford is internationalizing its operation and transforming its educational program while making a concerted effort to imbue its students with global and interdisciplinary perspectives.

JUNBA president Dr. Masato Matsuo started the second day's agenda off with opening remarks, followed by messages from Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, and



JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai. Next, Ms. Kumiko Bando, Director-General of MEXT's Higher Education Bureau, delivered a keynote speech, after which the Japanese university leaders reported and exchanged views on the activities and experiences of their universities in improving educational quality and strengthening international competitiveness.

Concluding on an upbeat note, JUNBA 2013 gave the Japanese university representatives mutually reinforced incentive and renewed drive toward reforming their institutions through internationalization initiatives.

— JSPS San Francisco Office

Symposium Held with University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

On 15-16 November, the JSPS San Francisco Office held a jointly sponsored symposium and ancillary workshop with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on the theme "Culture, Technology, and Transnationality in the Cold War Asia and Pacific." This full-day symposium was open to the public, while the half-day workshop was for the registered participants. Featuring presentations by five lecturers from Japanese universities and four from American universities, the symposium was aimed at fostering a better understanding of the trans-Pacific exchange of culture, science, and technology as an important component of Cold War geopolitical dynamics.

Mr. Toyoei Shigeeda, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu, and JSPS San Francisco Office director Dr. Seishi Takeda kicked off the event with opening remarks. The following lectures covered various issues involving Japan-US relations, including the

peaceful use of nuclear energy, changes to Japanese eating habits influenced by an influx of American lifestyle, and the advancement of women within society.

The participants also shared views on the interchange of culture and information during the Cold War and engaged in an animated discussion on the future direction of international exchange within the Asia-Pacific basin.

JSPS San Francisco looks forward to this type of vigorous interchange leading to wider networking between Japanese and American researchers.



— JSPS San Francisco Office

Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association Holds Fourth Symposium

On 1 December, the fourth symposium organized by the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association was held in Dhaka on the theme “Global Climate Change—Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation.” It was held as one of the events commemorating the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh-Japan diplomatic relationships.

Starting off the symposium, Mr. Hiroyuki Minami, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, and Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Bangladesh’s Minister of Food, offered congratulations



as invited guests. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Shunsuke Koshio, professor in the Faculty of Fisheries at Kagoshima University, on the theme “Trends of World Aquaculture and Aquafeed Development.” Next, lectures were given by Dr. Akihiro Takemura, professor in the Faculty of Science at University of the Ryukyus, and Dr. Hiroshi Okubo, professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyushu University. From Bangladesh, Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, who is president of the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association, gave a lecture followed by two other professors. In the ensuing technical session, six researchers delivered presentations.

About 150 people attended the symposium. While most were alumni, other participants included faculty members and graduate students. With the Minister of Food also participating, many members of the press came and held interviews, testifying to the high level of interest in the event.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

JSPS and NRCT Hold Seminar on Sustainable Development and Tourism

On 19 January, the JSPS Bangkok Office held a seminar titled “World Heritage & Tourism—an Approach to Sustainable Development” in Bangkok. Co-organized with the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), it was attended by some 125 people. As the seminar got underway, an active discussion unfolded on such themes as “education for sustainable development”—how to go about cultivating a basic understanding of its significance in Thailand through world heritage education—and the state of tourism between Thailand and Japan.

Mrs. Kanchana Pankhoingam, deputy secretary-general, NRCT and Mr. Koji Tawara, first secretary, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, offered opening remarks. Then, lectures were given by authorities on the seminar’s topics from the two countries: From Japan, they were given by Dr. Noriaki Nishiyama, professor in the Graduate School of International Media, Communication and Tourism Studies at Hokkaido University, and Prof. Eiji Hattori, former senior adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO. On the Thai side, lecturers

were invited from the UNESCO Bangkok Office, Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Education, and the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Thailand.



Representatives of the Japan Student Services Organization, Japan National Tourism Organization, and Japan Foundation, all having offices on the same floor as JSPS’s Bangkok Office, each gave briefings on their programs. This being the first time for the office to collaborate with organizations that come under the jurisdiction of different Japanese ministries, the seminar proved very meaningful in transcending perceived partitioning among them.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

Egyptian Alumni Association Holds Symposium and Assembly

On 16 December, the JSPS Alumni Association in Egypt, led by its president Prof. Ibrahim Tantawy, held its first symposium on the theme “Role of Science and Technology in Sustainable Development.” The activities of the alumni association had stagnated for some time after its establishment in 2007; recently, however, they have been on the rebound. Despite prior concern about the tense political situation in Egypt, the symposium went off very smoothly.

To open the symposium, warm messages of encouragement were offered by officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and the Embassy of Japan in Egypt. In the morning, lectures were given on the possibilities and limitations of science and technology. Prof. Yozo Fujino of the University of Tokyo addressed the matter from the perspective of urban engineering, while Prof. Nageh K. Allam of the American University in Cairo approached it from the viewpoint of nanochemistry. Turning the page, Mr. Hisashi Kato, JSPS international program director, spoke about the possibilities of cooperation between Japan and Egypt on a program level. Before the break, representatives of Egypt-Japan University of Science and



Technology (E-JUST), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kyushu University introduced their organizations’ activities, about which the participants enjoyed a conversation over lunch.

In the afternoon, the alumni association convened its annual general assembly. Following deliberation on the association’s accounting report and activity plans, talks were given by alumni on their experiences in Japan under the BRIDGE Fellowship Program. With members who had gone inactive being beckoned back into the fold, the assembly provided a valuable setting for exchanging views with them.

— JSPS Cairo Research Station

Japanese Universities Hold Joint Briefing in Changchun, China

On 14 November, a joint briefing by Japanese universities was held at Northeast Normal University in Changchun City. The Beijing Office organizes these events to support the internationalization efforts of Japanese universities. This briefing gathered mainly Chinese students who have started training in China under Japanese



government scholarships. Providing information on the latest research developments at graduate schools (doctoral courses) in Japanese universities, the briefing was aimed at helping the students select their host universities while gaining a better understanding of higher education in Japan. Nineteen Japanese universities and research institutes participated in the briefing, where their staffs explained their programs in booths set up for each institution. As the venue was packed including with students interested in studying in Japan at their own expense, the materials prepared by each organization ran out quickly, causing the briefings to finish about 30 minutes earlier than planned.

The JSPS Beijing Office holds briefings of this kind several times every year in various regions around China. Serving as an opportunity to recruit excellent young researchers aspiring to earn a doctoral degree, these events are carried out with the cooperation of Japanese universities, research institutes and the Embassy of Japan in China.

— JSPS Beijing Office

General Assembly Held by JSPS Alumni Association in China

On 3 November, the 2012 board meeting and general assembly of the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China was held at the Lakeview Hotel in Beijing. At the board meeting, the next period's board members were confirmed and an active discussion advanced on the direction of the alumni association and the self-sustainability of its activities. Attended by some 80 alumni, the following general assembly featured reports by the members on their activities. Four of them who had revisited Japan under the BRIDGE Fellowship Program talked about how they strengthened their relationships with their past host institutions. Having gathered from all around China, the alumni engaged in a free interchange on what they shared in common, primarily, their experiences in Japan and in JSPS programs. Thus transcending differences in their institutions and research fields, the members enjoyed the time this very unique opportunity gave them to spend interacting with each other.

The alumni association in China was established on 20 November 2010 for the purpose of advancing scientific exchange between China and Japan. With this year marking the third since its



establishment, the association has already garnered 1,135 members, making it the largest among all of the JSPS alumni associations. Within its current menu of activities, the China alumni association organizes science symposiums.

The JSPS Beijing Office looks forward to continuing to support the JSPS Fellow Alumni Association in China as its membership grows and activities expand.

— JSPS Beijing Office

ASIAHORCs Joint Symposium Held in Korea

On 11-14 November, the fourth in the series of annual Asian Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs) Joint Symposiums was held in Buyeo, South Korea. Launched in FY 2009, these symposiums



are held to foster young researchers and among them build networks that take on research challenges common to countries of the Asian region. Hosted by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), this symposium was held on the theme "Asian Frontiers in Infection, Immunity and Vaccines." Thirty researchers representing nine Asian countries gave presentations, engendering a vigorous exchange of views and ideas.

Dr. Kiyoshi Takeda, professor in the Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University, and three young researchers from Japan gave presentations on their research results in the symposium. Ms. Maki Tsuchida, head of JSPS's Asian Program Division, offered remarks at its welcome reception.

By promoting exchange among young researchers engaged in biomedical research, this joint symposium is expected to advance science and strengthen networking in this vital field.

— Asian Program Division

JSPS Hosts Regional Meeting of Global Research Council

On 6-7 December, an Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) was held by JSPS in collaboration with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). It gathered together representatives of 19 funding agencies from 14 Asia-



Pacific countries. They exchanged views on a regional policy with regard to “Research Integrity” and “Open Access.”

Over the meeting’s two days, JSPS chaired a session on research integrity and JST chaired one on open access. As a result of the discussion on research integrity, a proclamation, called the “Sendai Statement on Responsible Conduct of Research,” was adopted. The group also endorsed a “discussion summary” on open access after reports were delivered on its state in each country and a vigorous discussion was advanced on the role of funding agencies in realizing such access to research.

These regional outputs were reported at GRC’s International Steering Committee convened in Brasilia on 19 December, and will be reported again at its Annual Meeting to be held in Berlin on 27-29 May.

— Research Cooperation Division I

Indian JSPS Alumni Association Holds Celebrative Symposium in Japan

On 7-8 December, the Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA) teamed up with Bio-Nano Electronics Research Centre (BNERC) of Toyo University to hold a symposium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. As the venue for the event, Toyo University provided its Inoue Enryo Memorial Hall, accommodating some 400 people from the two countries over the symposium’s two days.

Having been organized as a sequel to IJAA’s third Annual Symposium, held in Nagpur City, Maharashtra State, the symposium was themed “Advanced Science and Technology.” In its opening ceremony, JSPS executive director Mr. Hayashi Towatari and Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador, Embassy of India, Japan, offered remarks, followed by a keynote address from Dr. Makoto Kobayashi, 2008 Nobel laureate in physics, and Dr. R. Chidambaram, principal scientific advisor to the Government of India. Altogether, four keynote addresses and 15 lectures were delivered. The participants listened to them with piqued interest.

In parallel with the symposium, young researchers carried out a



poster session. Standing in front of their displays they energetically fielded questions from the participants.

Closing remarks were delivered by IJAA chair and BNERC professor Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar and University of Kerala vice chancellor Dr. A. Jayakrishnan. Adding comments to their remarks, the participating researchers jelled together in a way that testified to the strong value they place on Indo-Japanese exchange.

— Overseas Fellowship Division

Joint Symposium on Marine Environments Held in Kenya

On 3-5 December, the Graduate School of Fisheries Science and Environmental Studies, Nagasaki University, and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) held a joint symposium on lakes and marine environments under the bilateral program between JSPS and the National Council for Science and



Technology (NCST). Venued at Kisumu Hotel on the campus of Maseno University, the symposium attracted about 30 researchers who engaged in fruitful discussions. Heading the list of participants were Prof. Hideaki Nakata, dean of the Graduate School of Fisheries Science and Environmental Studies, Nagasaki University, Prof. Atsushi Hagiwara of Nagasaki University, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, chairperson of KMFRI Board of Management, and Dr. Enock Wakwabi of KMFRI.

The symposium comprised three main sessions: 1) Environmental conservation, restoration and critical habitats covering mangroves, sea grass and corals; 2) Fisheries, natural products, food processing, postharvest and related socio-economics; and 3) Aquaculture/marine culture of fishes, seaweed, crabs and others. Some 28 papers were presented, spurring an animated give-and-take of views and information over the three days. The success of this symposium will surely spawn greater academic collaboration in this field between Japan and Kenya.

— JSPS Nairobi Research Station

Saitama Prefectural Kumagaya Girls' High School

Date: 10 October

Dr. Mary J. TELEBANCO-YANORIA (Philippines)

Host institution: Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences

Title: "A Journey to Rice Blast Research"



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

Date: 13 October

Dr. Bart RYMEN (Belgium)

Host institution: RIKEN

Title: "How Plant Growth Brought Me from Belgium to Japan"

Date: 20 October

Dr. Simon A. W. VANDE WALLE (Belgium)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Competition Law: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?"

Chiba Municipal Chiba High School (Chiba)

Date: 21 December

Dr. Houda ZRELLI (Tunisia)

Host institution: University of Tsukuba

Title: "Health Benefits of Functional Food"



Date: 10 November

Dr. Lynett DANKS (UK)

Host institution: Tokyo Medical and Dental University

Title: "Osteoimmunology"



Ichikawa Gakuen Ichikawa Senior High School (Chiba)

Date: 16 October

Dr. Georgios GIAVARAS (Greece)

Host institution: RIKEN

Title: "Graphene: Properties and Applications"

Dr. Julien VIEAUD (France)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science

Title: "About Me, Science and Nanotechnology"



Niigata Municipal Bandai Senior High School (Niigata)

Date: 22 November

Dr. Clyde P. DAPAT (Philippines)

Host institution: Niigata University

Title: "Visualizing Drug Resistance in Influenza Virus"

Kanazawa University High School (Ishikawa)

Date: 17 December

Dr. Faezeh ARAB HASSANI (Iran)

Host institution: Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Title: "How I Made My Career in Micro/nano-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS/NEMS)"

Date: 17 October

Dr. Matthew J. LAKE (UK)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "From Atoms to Particles to Strings"

Dr. Mandy S. Y. LUNG (Australia)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "My Life as a Neuroscientist"



Fukui Prefectural Fujishima Senior High School

Date: 22 November

Ms. Rebecca L. PAYNE (UK)

Host institution: Kyoto Prefectural University

Title: "Why and How Do We Reconstruct Paleoclimate?"

Fukui Prefectural Koshi Senior High School

Date: 27 October

Dr. Martin MARTIS (Slovakia)

Host institution: Osaka University

Title: "A Brief Introduction to Slovakian, Nano-sized Catalysts and Eco-materials"

Dr. Chuan-Ming YEH (Taiwan)

Host institution: National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

Title: "Plant Defense Responses to Environmental Stresses"

Date: 19 October

Dr. Gergely P. FEJOS (Hungary)

Host institution: RIKEN

Title: "Strong Interaction in Nature"

Dr. Kai-Wan K. HUI (Canada)

Host institution: RIKEN

Title: "Deciphering the Molecular Causes of Psychiatric Diseases"



Yamanashi Prefectural Hikawa High School

Date: 18 October

Dr. Craig A. BARNETT (New Zealand)

Host institution: Rikkyo University

Title: "How the Study of Life, the Universe and Everything, Can Help You"



Gifu Prefectural Gizan Senior High School

Date: 4 December

Dr. Elisa MONTIEL WELTI (Mexico)

Host institution: Doshisha University
Title: "Social Media and Emergency Preparedness Maps: Mapping Internal Displacement in Mexico"



Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo Senior High School

Date: 7 November

Dr. Andrea PRUDENZIATI (Italy)

Host institution: Kyoto University
Title: "Gravity from Satellites to Atoms: A Short Story of String Theory"



Shizuoka Municipal High School (Shizuoka)

Date: 14 December

Dr. Hsu-Wen CHAO (Taiwan)

Host institution: Kyoto University
Title: "Science: Exploring the Possibility from Your Life"

Nagoya Koyo Senior High School (Aichi)

Date: 12 December

Dr. David H. HEMBRY (USA)

Host institution: Kyoto University
Title: "Coevolution and Biodiversity"

Shizuoka Prefectural Iwata Minami High School

Date: 24 October

Dr. Pierre DE MARCELLUS (France)

Host institution: Yokohama National University
Title: "An Introduction to Astrobiology"

Hyogo Prefectural Kakogawa Higashi High School

Date: 20 November

Dr. Quan LI (China)

Host institution: Osaka University
Title: "Mitochondria in Neurodegeneration"



Shizuoka Prefectural Nirayama High School

Date: 5 October

Dr. Michael J. TURNER (New Zealand)

Host institution: National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center
Title: "The Cardiovascular System and the Regulation of Blood Pressure"

Saga Prefectural Chienkan Senior High School

Date: 10 December

Dr. Oscar A. GOMEZ SALGADO (Colombia)

Host institution: Doshisha University
Title: "The Pursuit of Human Security"

Aichi Prefectural Jishukan Senior High School

Date: 27 October

Dr. Jingui DUAN (China)

Host institution: Kyoto University
Title: "Dream, Life and Chemistry"

Dr. Joni JUPESTA (Indonesia)

Host institution: National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
Title: "Science of Sustainability Transitions in Emerging Countries: Lesson from Indonesia"

Miyazaki Prefectural Nobeoka High School

Date: 2 November

Dr. Vongsavanh PHONGSISAY (Laos)

Host institution: Kyushu University
Title: "Campylobacter Jejuni and Guillain-Barre Syndrome"

Welcome to JARC-Net

JSPS operates the Japan-Affiliated Research Community Network (JARC-Net) database. Its purpose is to support the maintenance and expansion of working networks forged between Japan and other countries over long years of implementing JSPS's various international exchange and fellowship programs.

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 activities by mobilizing past colleagues, such as university or JSPS program alumni. Members are also provided an information mail service on JSPS's international exchange and cooperation programs.

Registration in the JARC-Net is open to all who are interested in research exchange between Japan and other countries, including but not limited to overseas students and researchers who have experienced stays in Japan, Japanese researchers interested in research exchanges with colleagues in other countries, international exchange program administrators in universities and research institutions, and corporate R&D personnel.

We look forward to you registering on and taking active advantage of our JARC-Net service. Please visit our website: <http://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-affiliated/>.

— Asian Program Division

After finishing her undergraduate education in Belarus, Dr. Alena Neviarouskaya came to Japan for the first time. She entered graduate school at the University of Tokyo on a Japanese government scholarship, where she earned her master's and PhD. Seeking further research experience, Dr. Neviarouskaya applied for a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship, under which she has been conducting research with her host researcher, Dr. Masaki Aono, in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Toyohashi University of Technology since May 2011.

What are you currently researching under the JSPS fellowship?

My research theme is "Comprehensive exploration of attitudes in text: Textual attitude retrieval and analysis." In appraisal theory, there are three high-level attitude types: *Affect* (a person's emotional state, feeling, or reaction), *judgment* (ethical appraisal of person's character, behavior, skills), and *appreciation* (aesthetic evaluation of semiotic and natural phenomena, events, objects). The main aims of my research are (1) developing a novel intelligent system for computational retrieval (search), analysis, and interpretation of attitudes expressed by people on the web (e.g., discussion forums, blogs, product or service reviews); (2) proposing methods for extracting deep-level information related to attitude, such as emotion experiencers or opinion holders, reasons behind expressed attitudes, causes and consequences; (3) developing society-beneficial and analytical applications driven by an attitude-sensing system.

How did you become interested in your research field?

My interest in this research field, which involves automatic analysis of people's preferences, opinions, emotions and attitudes communicated through written language, emerged and gained strength during my master's and doctoral studies in the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology at the University of Tokyo. My academic supervisor, Dr. Mitsuru Ishizuka, encouraged me to get involved in this research field as it provides an opportunity to combine computer science and linguistics with psycholinguistics, cognitive science, and emotion modeling. This broad spectrum of perspectives kindled my enthusiasm for conducting research in this interdisciplinary field.

How did you get to know your Japanese host

researcher?

I found Dr. Masaki Aono through an Internet search. I learned that his laboratory conducts advanced and interesting research in the area of web and data mining. So, I started to communicate with him by email to discuss a proposal I had for conducting research under a JSPS fellowship. I was pleased that he agreed to host me, giving me an opportunity to work at Toyohashi University of Technology.

Why did you choose Japan to pursue your research?

When I was looking for a country to study in, Japan became my first priority as I knew it was recognized as a leader in technology, while offering an excellent academic environment with wide educational and research opportunities. I had been lucky to be awarded a Japanese government scholarship for my master's and PhD studies. Therefore, it was quite natural for me to continue my research in Japan under the JSPS fellowship, building upon all the positive experiences I had gained in Japan to date.

What is your impression of your host institution?

Toyohashi University of Technology is a relatively new national university that promotes interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research and maintains strong ties with industry. I enjoy the atmosphere that fills our laboratory. It promotes creativity and freedom in pursuing our research ideas. Intelligent and kind laboratory members, comprising Japanese and international students, form a cohesive team comparable to a united family in which everyone feels comfortable. It is a great place for me to not only focus on my research, but also meet people from different cultural backgrounds and to participate in a variety of activities, such as sport competitions, camping, and barbecue parties.

Generally speaking, what is your impression of Japan's research environment?

In my opinion, graduate schools in Japan are a good option for students and researchers who want to establish a strong academic record while acquiring unique research experience, one full of motivation and dynamism. The finest teams of professors, high standards of teaching, excellent class activities, modern laboratory equipment, interesting research topics, international environment, and opportunities to participate in interna-



Dr. Alena Neviarouskaya

Ph.D. (Information Science and Technology), the University of Tokyo, Japan, 2011

M.Sc. (Information Science and Technology), the University of Tokyo, Japan, 2008

B.S. with Honors (Economic Informatics), Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Minsk, Belarus, 2003

tional conferences and collaborate with other researchers—these are the most remarkable features of Japan's research environment.

What are your research achievements under the JSPS fellowship so far?

As a JSPS researcher, I proposed a novel method for conducting an automatic analysis of sentiment word (adjective) relations with three attitude types: affect, judgment and appreciation. Such a method will support analytical applications relying on recognition of fine-grained context-dependent attitudes conveyed in text. Based on sentences automatically collected for each adjective, the algorithm analyses the context of phrases that contain sentiment word by considering morphological tags, high-level concepts, and named entities; then, it makes decisions about contextual attitude labels. Finally, the appraisal potentials of each word are calculated based on the number of sentences related to each type of attitude. The results of this research were presented at the 24th International Conference on Computational Linguistics.

What do you do outside your research work?

Mostly, I spend my spare time with my family: my husband and our one and a half year old baby. Since we have fallen in love with Japanese nature and the traditional architecture of Japanese temples, our trips cover a significant part of weekends.

What do you think of life in Japan—its culture and customs?

I think that the fundamental principle of living in Japan lies in pursuit of harmony in everything. Politeness and respect are crucial for harmonious personal relationships in family and working environments. The traditional Japanese ceremonies and festivals are full of ritualistic and meaningful acts conducive to achieving harmony and inner peace. The *kimono*, with its gorgeous patterns and perfect combinations of forms and colors, are perceived as artworks worn on important occasions. The traditional viewing of cherry blossom in the spring and colorful leaves in the fall always brings harmony to the heart of the beholder, leaving pleasant memories. As to Japanese gardens that feature ponds, islands, bridges, waterfalls, stones and sand, I see them as being created in exquisite unity.

What do you plan to do after your fellowship ends?

I plan to find a position at an academic institution in Japan located preferably in the same prefecture where my husband, who is also from Belarus, is working. Currently he has a 5-year assistant professor appointment at Toyohashi University of Technology. I am hoping that our whole family can live together.

Please give some advice for young researchers who may be thinking about doing research in Japan.

My best tips for success in Japan are having passion for your research and respect for cultural diversity. It is sometimes difficult to jump into an entirely new environment, but by maintaining strong motivation to achieve your research goals, many of the obstacles

will soon be overcome. I believe that experiencing Japan's unique culture and customs will quickly turn into an enjoyable experience. These advantages of a JSPS fellowship should add a special stepping stone to your career path.

As seen in our interview with Dr. Neviarouskaya, she enjoys both her research and life in Japan. She told us that what boosts that enjoyment is the help and comradeship she receives from her host researcher, lab mates and the university's staff. At the same time, we felt that her congenial personality is going a long way in creating the harmony she enjoys in her environment. We look forward with great expectation to her finding continued fulfillment in her research and life in Japan.

Introducing Japan: Toyohashi

Dr. Alena Neviarouskaya

Toyohashi city is located in Aichi Prefecture about 240 kilometers west of Tokyo. The city abounds in nature and beautiful surrounding areas, including majestic mountains clad with trees and bamboo groves. I am especially fond of these mountains, on one hand, and the Enshu coastal beaches with their open access to the Pacific Ocean, on the other. Some of these beaches are perfect for surfing, while others provide comfortable nesting for loggerhead sea turtles. On the way to the ocean, there are farms, rice paddies, green tea plantations, and fields seasonally covered with cabbages or watermelons.

Toyohashi Park in the city's center is one of my favorite places. Located in an area of the park close to the Toyogawa River, Yoshida Castle is one of the region's major historical spots. Despite the fact that the castle was reconstructed, its architecture and remnants of the original stonework above the moats immerse the visitor in a 15-16th century atmosphere. It's believed that local tradition



Tezutsu hanabi

spawned a really fascinating event: *tezutsu hanabi* or handheld fireworks, originating in early years of the castle's operation. During the performance, *tezutsu* (large handheld bamboo tubes filled with black powder) shoot flames several meters upward. Ear-cracking bangs mark the end of each firework eruption.

In the immediate vicinity of Toyohashi Park is located the Toyohashi Haristos Orthodox Church. In 2008, it received the status of an "important cultural property" from the Japanese government. Adorn with lots of impressive icons and murals inside, the church has a lovely wooden structure with a perfectly proportioned Byzantine architectural design.

The Toyohashi Zoo and Botanical Park (Non-Hoi Park) includes a water lily garden patterned after Claude Monet's famous paintings along

with the Toyohashi Museum of Natural History and a roller-coaster amusement park. In the September of 2011, a very happy event occurred: a baby elephant, named Mara, was born in the zoo. It's interesting that in the Belarusian language "mara" means a dream (in the sense of a wish). This cute little elephant attracts many visitors to the park. People of all ages also enjoy visiting the museum to see its display "evolution of life" and its fossil exhibit, including the full skeleton of an Edmontosaurus dinosaur, along with a variety of skeletal replicas of other dinosaurs. The Toyohashi Zoo and Botanical Park, with all its attractions, makes for a full day of family fun, entertainment, and even education.

I would definitely recommend a visit to friendly Toyohashi to those who enjoy traveling.



Yoshida Castle





Cover photo:

Peach flower petals floating on a cup of *white sake*, drunk during the spring doll festival as a wish for the healthy growth of girls.

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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