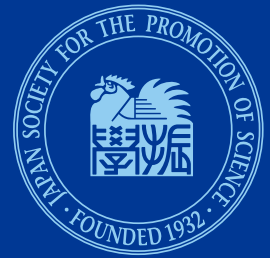


JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



FEATURE: JSPS *Ikushi* Prize

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Award Ceremony Held for Second JSPS *Ikushi* Prize

Graced by the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the second *Ikushi* Prize award ceremony was held by JSPS at the Japan Academy on 1 March. At the ceremony, 17 young researchers received an *Ikushi* certificate and medal.

In 2009, JSPS received an endowment from Emperor Akihito on the 20th year of his reign. Amidst a severe economic environment in Japanese society, His Majesty's desire was to encourage and support young scientists who are working diligently to advance their studies and research. In deference to his wishes, JSPS established the *Ikushi* Prize program and placed it into operation in FY 2010. It functions to formally recognize outstanding doctoral students who can be expected to contribute to Japan's future scientific advancement, while seeking to fan their enthusiasm for education and research pursuits.

For this conferral of the second *Ikushi* Prize, in March 2011 a request to nominate candidates was sent out to 2,703 Japanese universities and academic societies, from which 120 nominations were received by June. Over a 6-month period, JSPS's Research Center for Science Systems conducted preliminary document and panel reviews on the nominees, upon which the program's Selection



Committee made the final decisions. Meeting on 22 December, the Committee members engaged in a vigorous discussion of the nominees taking into account their current research activities and future potential, finally coming to the difficult decision on which 17 nominees to select for the Prize.

JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai opened the ceremony with introductory remarks and was followed by Selection Committee chair Dr. Takeshi Sasaki, who reported on the vetting process. Then, Dr. Anzai presented an *Ikushi* certificate and medal to Mr. Kenichi Ishii, doctoral student at The University of Tokyo, who received them as a representative of all the awardees. This was followed by a congratulatory message from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), read by Ms. Mieko Kamimoto, MEXT's parliamentary secretary. The program concluded with a message of appreciation and future resolve on behalf of the awardees by Mr. Ishii.

After the ceremony, a tea party was held at the Japan Academy, in which Their Majesties enjoyed pleasant conversation with Ms. Kamimoto, Dr. Sasaki, and the *Ikushi* laureates.



On Receiving the Second *Ikushi* Prize by Kenichi Ishii, The University of Tokyo

*I am both honored and deeply grateful to receive a JSPS *Ikushi* Prize on this occasion of the second year of the Prize's conferral on young researchers. I wish to express my profound appreciation to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress who donated the endowment that seeded the establishment of this Prize and who have always given their generous support to us young researchers. My hearty thanks also go to my mentors who conveyed to me a fascination for science and ushered me into the world of research. Of course, I also appreciate my family and friends who support and stand by me as I pursue my*

daily research activities.

My research in the university lab involves diseases caused by microbial infection. From prehistoric to modern times, infectious diseases have continued to imperil the health and lives of human beings. We researchers in the pharmaceutical domain are working to conquer infectious diseases by elucidating their onset mechanisms and developing new therapeutic drugs (antibiotics). As the object of this research are diseases that affect people, mammals as genetically close to humans as possible are most often used as the model animals

accompanying our work. Given the ethics rules pertinent to animal experiments and the high costs associated with using mammals, a need has arisen for using alternative model animals. Amidst these circumstances, the number of new drugs developed to fight infectious diseases has been decreasing year by year.

In response, I have been working to pioneer a new field immunological research, one that uses the silkworm as a model animal. This insect had up till now almost never been used in such research. At a glance, the silkworm would appear to be a very

different organism from humans; however, the microbes that cause diseases in humans also cause them in silkworms and the antibiotics that cure infected humans are also effective in silkworms. Accordingly, I believed that the silkworm can be used as model in analyzing basic life phenomena seen in human infectious diseases. Using them, I have discovered that a substance called paralytic peptide acts like cytokines in mammals to transmit information to other immune cells in clearing infectious pathogens from a host organism. Focusing on a microbe that worsens illness by throwing the host's immune system into disarray, I have also elucidated a mechanism that causes infectious diseases.

There is a close familiarity in Japan with

the silkworm whose cocoons yield raw silk thread, so the idea of it providing an alternative to humans and experimental mammals in infectious disease research was greeted with surprise. On one hand, I agonized over the way some people driven by set notions looked askantly upon my work. On the other, the experience taught me a painful lesson in the need to pursue theoretical dialogue with researchers in other fields. In the future as well, I hope to use the joy I find in making unexpected research advances as impetus in conveying to people the charm and thrill of scientific research, while contributing to the enhanced health of human beings.

Having experienced the measures taken to conserve electricity after last year's Great

East Japan Earthquake, I came to feel an even closer tie between scientific research and society. Mindful that my life as a researcher is made possible by a sound infrastructure, I am grateful for the opportunity that society affords me to immerse myself in my daily work. It is in precisely times like these that we young researchers are called upon to advance with fiery zeal the kind of creative scientific research that will contribute to building an ever-more dynamic society. Utilizing the network formed among us, the young researchers who received the Ikushi Prize, we will proceed with fresh resolve in creating the next generation of scientific milestones and societal building blocks.

FY2011 JSPS Ikushi Prize Awardees

Humanities and Social Sciences		
Fumihiko Kano	Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University	"A Comparative Eye-Tracking Study in Four Genera of Hominid: Face and Scene Scanning"
Hiroaki Sakamoto	Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University	"Economic Analysis of Climate Change with Agent Heterogeneity and Impact Uncertainty"
Eiichi Hayashi	Graduate School of Economics, Keio University	"The Social History of a Japanese Soldier Who Stayed Behind—Modern Japan of Southeast Asian History—"
Ren Yatsunami	Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University	"Rules on International Trust"
Mathematics; Physical Sciences; Chemistry; Engineering Sciences		
Hideto Ito	Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University	"Construction of Specific Catalytic Environment by Semihollow-Shaped Triethynylphosphine Ligand and Its Application to Transition Metal-Catalyzed Reaction"
Yoshinori Gongyo	Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Tokyo	"Minimal Models and Abundance"
Aki Takigawa	School of Science, The University of Tokyo	"Formation and Evolution of Alumina Dust around Evolved Stars: Toward the Next Stage of Astromineralogy"
Dai Yamazaki	School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"A Physically-Based Modeling of Large-Scale Flooding in Continental Rivers of the World"
Koji Yamamoto	Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University	"Development of Novel Carbon-Carbon Bond Formations with Elimination of Dihydrogen"
Yuichi Yoshida	Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University	"Sublinear-Time Algorithms for Graphs and Constraint Satisfaction Problems"
Biological Sciences; Agricultural Sciences; Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical Sciences		
Kenichi Ishii	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo	"Research on Regulatory Systems of Innate Immunity and Establishment of Immune-Related Disease Model in the Silkworm <i>Bombyx mori</i> "
Masayoshi Kamioki	Graduate School of Science, Rikkyo University	"Nocturnal Song in Birds: The Costs and Benefits of Acoustic Communication in the Darkness"
Masako Koyama	Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University	"Structural Basis for CRM1-Mediated Nuclear Export"
Mitsuyoshi Takahara	Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University	"Establishment of Optimal Statistical Models for Assessing the Risk of Atherosclerotic Disease"
Shouta Nakayama	Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University	"Assessment of Toxicological Effects of Environmental Pollutants on the Wildlife in Africa"
Mami Nishie	Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University	"Studies on Lantibiotic Biosynthesis and Mode of Action for Novel Peptide Designing"
Yuko Hasegawa	School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"The Regulatory Mechanisms of Xist RNA in X-Chromosome Inactivation"

Titles and affiliations current as of 1 May 2011

JSPS President Attends Global Summit on Merit Review

On 14-15 May, the Global Summit on Merit Review was hosted by the National Science Foundation at its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, USA. It was attended by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai.

At a time when countries around the world are strengthening their support for basic research and international collaboration is becoming increasingly important, NSF held this Summit to which



it invited the heads of funding agencies from about 50 countries and regions. Its members worked to develop a core global standard for the merit (or peer) review of research proposals. Drafted for that purpose and to foster upon high principles international cooperation was a “Statement of Principles for Scientific Merit Review,” which embodies such attributes as transparency, impartiality, and integrity/ethics.

At the Summit, a Global Research Council was launched to advance the group’s discussion toward building a basic infrastructure for implementing the merit review system and otherwise promoting partnership within the international research community. In an exchange of views among the agency heads, Dr. Anzai spoke about shortening research cycles, emerging data-driven research, and other aspects of the research and funding environment amidst rapid changes spawned by globalization. He emphasized the need for international collaboration and young-researcher development in pace with these global transitions.

The next meeting of the Global Research Council is scheduled to be held in Berlin at the end of May 2013.

— Research Cooperation Division I

JSPS President Attends G8-HORCs Meeting

Organized this year by Max Planck Society, a meeting of the Heads of Research Councils of the G8 Countries (G8-HORCs) was held at Ringberg Castle in Germany on 29-31 July. In the meeting, JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai joined the heads of leading science-promotion agencies from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the UK and the US. G8-HORCs meetings are convened once a year to accommodate a free discussion among these top-echelon science administrators on matters of mutual interest pertaining to global issues and S&T policy.

This year’s meeting began with reports from the members on their respective country’s research and technology policies and practices. Dr. Anzai outlined the Japanese government’s fourth S&T Basic Plan and also described the ongoing discussion within the government on the reforming of the country’s independent administrative institutions, of which JSPS is one. In a following thematic session titled “The Case of Energy Research,” he explained Japan’s evolving energy policy in the wake of the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. In these and the other sessions on “Horizon 2020 and the European Research Area,” “International Research and Science in the Next Decade,” and “Opening Access,”



vigorous opinion exchanges unfolded.

The next G8-HORCs meeting is scheduled to be held around next May in Germany.

— Research Cooperation Division I

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.jsps.go.jp/english/e-affiliated/>.

— Asian Program Division

Washington Office Holds Forum on Indigenous Research

On 12 July, JSPS's Office in Washington, DC held its annual summer "Science in Japan" Forum. As in the past, this 17th forum in the series introduced a wide spectrum of Americans, including science-policy administrators, journalists and researchers, to the latest advances being made in scientific research in Japan. Titled "Routes of Indigenous Research," this year's forum was the first to have a theme in the social sciences.

Divided into the three sessions—Native Ontologies and Epistemologies as Praxis; Identity in Three Dimensions: Past, Present, and Future Implications; and Indigeneity and the Ainu—the forum featured presentations by 13 US and Japanese experts and discussions inclusive of the audience on research related to the Inuit and other native Americans and to Japan's indigenous people, including their history, environment, and applicable government policy. Altogether, about 100 people attended the event.

— JSPS Washington Office



Japanese-German Symposium Held on Natural Disasters

The JSPS Bonn Office teamed up with the German JSPS Club (German alumni association) again this year to hold the 17th annual



Panel discussion

Japanese-German Symposium on 11-12 May at the University of Münster. Themed "Natural Disasters: Impact and Management," the symposium featured an introductory lecture by German geologist Andreas Küppers on Japan's natural disasters and energy resources as components of its geodynamic environment. This comprehensive topic introduction was followed by three scientific sessions on "Natural Disasters and Law," "Stress Management after Natural Disasters," and "Urban Planning and Natural Disasters." In each of them, one Japanese and one German specialist delivered lectures. Time was also allotted for a panel discussion regarding the future of German-Japanese scientific cooperation, in which four panelists discussed the instrumental role that can be played by the German JSPS Club in expanding collaboration between the two countries.

The lecturers' CVs, abstracts and PowerPoint slides are posted on the Bonn Office's website (<http://www.jsps-bonn.de>).

— JSPS Bonn Office

Science Symposium Held at University College London

On 25-26 June, the JSPS London Office held a joint UK-Japan symposium on the subject "Mitochondria—From the Fundamental Aspects to Medical Importance." It was selected and held under phase 2 of JSPS London's symposium scheme for Japanese researchers based in the UK. In this phase, this symposium was convened in follow up to a symposium with the same title held in 2011.

At the symposium, 17 UK and Japanese researchers delivered research presentations, followed by free discussions and a research facility visit. The JSPS office set up a booth, used by the staff to describe JSPS's fellowship and other programs. A description of JSPS offerings was provided between the presentations along with a talk by a member of the UK JSPS Alumni Association on his research experiences in Japan. In addition, a Japanese researcher introduced his affiliated institution in Japan.

Building upon last year's success, this symposium worked to strengthen even further cooperative ties between researchers from the two countries, giving rise to lofty expectation for milestone advances in the field of mitochondria research.



Alumni member talking about his Japan experience

— JSPS London Office

Japan-Norway Symposium Held on Space Sciences

On 5-6 June, this symposium, held on space sciences, had the objective of building a network between Japanese and Northern European researchers in mainly fields of polar research especially upper-atmospheric physics. Venued at the University of Oslo (UiO) in Norway, the symposium was co-organized by JSPS Stockholm Office and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and attended by some 70 researchers and administrators from the region.

The event opened with speeches by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, RCN director general Dr. Arvid Hallén, Embassy of Japan in Norway Ambassador Mr. Akio Shirota, and MEXT International Science and Technology Affairs Division deputy director Mr. Eiji Tamai. Over its two days, presentations were delivered on the state of and prospects for research in upper/middle-atmospheric physics, the sun and solar activity, and ground-based/spaceborne observations of the polar regions. These many and assorted presentations generated active Q&A discussions along with spirited



exchanges of views in the ensuing working groups on each topic. As its center-piece accomplishment, the symposium decided to establish the Japan-Scandinavia Polar Space Sciences (JSPSS) Net.

The fourth Japan-Norway Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology was also held during the month in Tokyo. Coordinated by Nagoya University vice-president Dr. Ryoichi Fujii and UiO professor Dr. Jøran Idar Moen, the Committee heard a report on the Japan-Norway Symposium as an example of research being advanced via collaboration in science and technology between Japanese and Scandinavian researchers.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

Meeting and Lecture Held by Japan-Sweden Joint Committee

On 10 May, the fifth meeting was convened of the Japan-Sweden Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology and



a special lecture, sponsored by the Committee, was held as a side event on the following day. Held at Karolinska Institutet (KI), the lecture was delivered by JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Asashima.

Dr. Asashima was invited to deliver the lecture because he is a leading authority on the initiatives being taken by Japan in “life innovation,” which is a priority area in S&T cooperation between Japan and Sweden and was a main theme of the previous day’s Committee meeting. He spoke on current developments in stem cell and other biological research being advanced in Japan while touching upon its future vistas.

Some 70 KI researchers and students, Japanese researchers doing work in Sweden, and science administrators from the two countries attended the lecture, which spawned an animated session of questions and answers.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

France-Japan Workshop and Alumni General Assembly Held in Lyon

On 19-20 June, the JSPS Strasbourg Office joined with INSA Lyon to hold a France-Japan Workshop titled “Water and Urban Environment.” It was coordinated by Prof. Hiroaki Furumai, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Jean-Luc Bertrand Krajewski, INSA Lyon.

Urban water systems (UWS) and their interaction with the aquatic environment and ecosystems is an important area of research in both Japan and France, particularly given emerging problems related to micro-pollutants transferred into the water supply along with the need to boost water use and cycling efficiencies while reducing energy consumption. During the workshop, 12 specialists in UWS-related fields introduced their latest research results and engaged the audience in active discussions. The workshop, which included visits to two public water works in Lyon, spawned an animated



Workshop speakers at public water works

exchange of scientific views while creating new links and even closer collaboration between the French and Japanese researchers.

Held in parallel with the workshop, a general assembly of the JSPS French Alumni Association was convened at INSA Lyon on 19 June. An election of four board members was held, in which Dr. Isabelle Sasaki, Paul Sabatier University (Toulouse III), was elected as the association's new president, and Prof. Bernard Deconihout, University of Rouen, and Prof. Marie-Aleth Lacaille-

Dubois, University of Burgundy, as its vice-presidents. Strasbourg Office director Prof. Yoichi Nakatani extended warm words of appreciation to Prof. Marie-Claire Lett, University of Strasbourg, for her superb contributions over the eight years she served as the alumni association's president, and wished the association's members continued success in their vital role of providing a pivotal interface between French and Japanese researchers.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

Strasbourg Office Holds Seminar on “Science and Technology in Japan”

Held on 25 May, this seminar celebrated the 10th anniversary of cooperation between JSPS's Strasbourg Office and Maison Universitaire France-Japon (MUFJ) along with the 80th anniversary



of JSPS's establishment. Themed “Science and Technology in Japan: What Lessons Can France Learn?” (*Science et Technologie au Japon: quels enseignements pour la France?*), the seminar featured a speech by Jean-Louis Armand, emeritus professor of the Aix-Marseille Université and former science and technology counselor at the Embassy of France in Japan. His talk revisited the history of Japan's science and technology development after the Meiji Era, transitioning to technology transfer from and scientific collaboration with France. It sparked a spirited discussion among the members of the audience.

Remarks were also delivered by Prof. Alain Beretz, president of the University of Strasbourg, Mr. Hiroshi Karube, Consul General of Japan in Strasbourg, and Prof. Jean-Yves MÉRINDOL, Counselor of the President of France for Higher Education and Research and former president of the University of Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg). Each emphasized the importance of vibrant academic cooperation between France and Japan.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

Beijing Office Holds Program Briefings in China and South Korea

On 2 June, the JSPS Beijing Office held a program briefing at Central China Normal University, located in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Again on 14 June, we held a briefing at Korea Maritime University, located in Busan, South Korea.

The briefing at Central China Normal University was attended by about 50 young researchers from its Center for Chinese Rural Studies, who responded attentively to a presentation on JSPS's program offerings and the activities of the Beijing Office.

The briefing at Korea Maritime University was held upon a



Briefing at Central China Normal University



Briefing at Korea Maritime University

request from Korean researchers engaged in joint research with Japan. About 20 researchers in fields of the social sciences received a program description centering upon JSPS's invitational fellowships. The following Q&A session saw very tangible inquiries such as how to fill out fellowship application forms. The spirited interaction at the meeting testified to the high Korean interest in JSPS programs.

In the future, the Beijing Office will not confine itself to China but in cooperation with related institutions will provide briefings to researchers in the wider East Asian region, where interest abounds in the opportunities provided by JSPS. While building and strengthening networks, we will strive to advance scientific collaboration within the region.

— JSPS Beijing Office

Bangkok Office Holds Workshop on Carbon Monitoring

On 9 May, a workshop was held at Prince of Songkla University (PSU) on the theme “Blue, Green and Brown Carbon Monitoring by Integrating Geo-spatial Technology and In-situ Measurements.” The convening of a workshop on this subject was the fervent wish of Dr. Anchana Prathep, assistant professor in PSU’s Faculty of



Science. Its objective was to explore in greater depth the possibility of marrying coastal oceanographic research with remote sensing.

Dr. Anchana, Dr. Kyaw Sann Oo, postdoctoral fellow at Tokyo University’s Institute of Industrial Science (IIS), and Dr. Wataru Takeuchi, associate professor at IIS and then director of JSPS’s Bangkok Office, addressed the workshop on a theme of carbon cycling—“blue” (oceans), “green” (forests), and “brown” (soil)—evoking a discussion on the domain and possibilities of advancing joint Thai-Japanese research in it.

Participating from PSU’s Faculty of Science were 20 researchers whose animated opinion exchanges and volleys of questions and answers culminated the workshop in a great stride toward advancing its objective.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

JSPS-NRCT Seminar Held in Thailand

On 8-10 June, a seminar cosponsored by JSPS’s Bangkok Office and the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) was held at Khon Kaen University (KKU) on the subject “Anthropogenic Greenhouse Gases from Satellite Observations and In-situ Measurements.”

The first day of the seminar saw research presentations on greenhouse gas observations and measurements. The second day was held in Phimai, a township in northeastern Thailand, and the third in Khon Kaen, where demonstrations were conducted on a sampling survey of methane gas. At the meeting, a welcoming address was given by Dr. Anan Polthanee, dean of KKU’s Faculty of Agriculture, and a message was delivered by NRCT secretary general Dr. Soottiporn Chittmittrapap. Prof. Sachiko Hayashida from Nara Women’s University and Prof. Ryoichi Imasu from the University of Tokyo joined other researchers in delivering presentations.

This was the second time for the JSPS-NRCT Seminar to be held in a local area of Thailand, the first being at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand in 2009. This year’s seminar was carried out with a focus on satellite observation of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmospheric and terrestrial environments. It was attended by



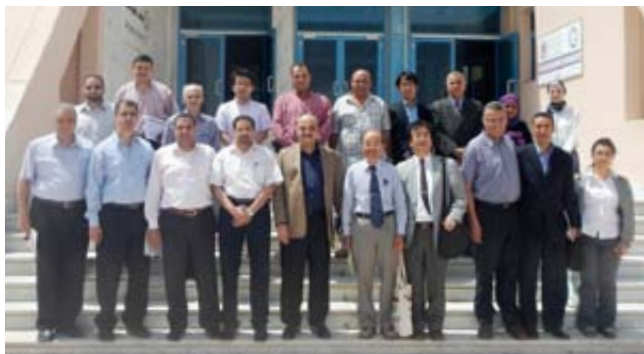
some 80 people.

On a separate plane, the Bangkok Office had visited all nine of the institutions designated as “national research universities” by the Thai Ministry of Education. Despite the quality of their research, the local universities among them are often overlooked. That the seminar struck a strong chord with the attending representatives of top-class research projects in Japan both reinforced and underscored our positive impression of research being advanced in Thailand’s national universities.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

Egypt Alumni Association Holds Seminar and E-JUST Visit

On 3 June, the JSPS Alumni Association in Egypt (JSPSAAE) arranged a visit to Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and held an outdoor seminar. Established in 2010, E-JUST is a national university patterned upon a Japan-style curricula of science and technology, with small class sizes, and an



emphasis on postgraduate research. E-JUST’s campus is located near Alexandria, a city on the edge of the desert. The location had been the development site of a big industrial housing complex under Egypt’s previous administration. It is about 2.5 hours by car from Cairo.

For the visit, the participants divided up into several minibuses and reassembled at the venue. Kicked off with remarks by E-JUST president Dr. Ahmed B. Khairy, the confab enjoyed a spirited discussion triggered by reports presented on E-JUST’s current state and future vistas and JSPS’s program offerings. In a visit taken to E-JUST’s research labs, the members found the research facilities observed to be very impressive. The JSPSAAE members from Cairo University gave the young researchers dispatched from it to E-JUST a shoutout in enthusiastic support.

The alumni members voiced a resolute intention to strengthen their ties with E-JUST via their respective fields of specialization.

— JSPS Cairo Research Station

Nationwide Conference Held on S&T and Innovation in Kenya

Cosponsored by the JSPS Nairobi Research Station, Kenya's Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology, and National Council for Science and Technology, the First National Science, Technology and Innovation Week was held over five days from 7-11 May. Constituting Kenya's sole nationwide scientific conference, the event was aimed at sharing the country's research achievements among its researchers while also disseminating them



to the Kenyan public. This first conference in the series was held on the theme "Innovation Systems and Knowledge-Based Economy for National Development."

At the opening ceremony, remarks were delivered by Kenya Prime Minister Dr. Raila Amolo Odinga and by Dr. Phil Mjwara, director-general, South Africa's Department of Science and Technology, who gave a shoutout to the young researchers in attendance. In the conference's five sessions, a total of 34 openly solicited papers were presented. A dedicated workshop was also held on the theme "Harnessing Biotechnology for National Development and Global Competitiveness." Special tents were set up within the international conference hall to hold an exhibit of the research theses and results. Some 43 displays were carried out by universities and other research organizations selected from various districts around Kenya. On the final day, a screening was held to select the most excellent presentation delivered and display conducted.

— JSPS Nairobi Research Station

Third Meeting Held of Japanese University Faculty in the US

On 20 July, the JSPS San Francisco Office held its third meeting of Japanese university faculty members staying in the United States. The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish mutual networks among Japanese university educators and researchers on stints in the US. The meeting was attended by 12 faculty members of Japanese universities on short stays to do research at Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and UC San Francisco. In the meeting, the participants briefly introduced themselves and talked about their current research activities. They, then, held an exchange of views regarding the future of higher education in Japan. Afterwards, a sociable gathering was held in which the participants enjoyed comparing notes on their various research activities and sharing information on their living

environments in the US.



— JSPS San Francisco Office

Recent Visitor to JSPS (May–July 2012)

South African Ambassador

On 11 June, Dr. Mohau N. Pheko, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Japan, made a courtesy visit to JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai. Dr. Pheko thanked Dr. Anzai for the close cooperation that JSPS affords South Africa's National Research Foundation in promoting joint research between the two countries. Taking advantage, she said, of South Africa's cutting-edge technologies, as epitomized by its optical telescope being one of the largest in the world, and vast natural resources, her country would like to

expand its collaboration with Japan, while learning from Japan's scientific knowledge and technical expertise. In response, Dr. Anzai said that JSPS would like to invigorate exchange between Japanese and South African researchers through its existing programs, and for that purpose information on each country's scientific activities will need to be more widely disseminated to increase awareness among the researchers in both countries. Dr. Pheko agreed to pursuing this direction.

— Asian Program Division



JSPS Summer Program

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

Featuring a research internship for the participants at a host institution, the program began with a one-week orientation held in the seaside town of Hayama. At it, the fellows received special lectures, gave poster presentations, attended classes in Japanese language learning, engaged in Japanese culture activities, and experienced Japanese living through homestay with a Japanese family. After the orientation, the young researchers went their separate ways to their respective host institutions. Their summer internships afforded them an experience upon which



to consider coming back to Japan to do research at future junctures in their careers. On the day before the program ended, the

participants reassembled to present reports on their summer research activities.

— Overseas Fellowship Division

The centerpiece of the JSPS Summer Program is the fellows' internship at a host research institution, where they take part in research activities with frontline Japanese researchers in their respective fields. The following are comments offered by two of the fellows on their research and culture experiences.

Ms. Carrie Khou

(Graduate student, University of Mannheim) at Doshisha University
Her host: Prof. Takashi Sasaki

Every day I learned something new about Japan and its culture. Be it the conventions of gift-giving or the tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, no day went by without a new and valuable lesson on Japanese life. I was equally enticed to learn more about my project on the "new women" in modern American and East Asian literature. Thanks to my advisor Prof. Takashi Sasaki at Doshisha University in Kyoto, I was able to discuss my research topic with professors of Japanese studies, American studies, sociology, and cultural studies. Besides the scholarly work I conducted, I also seized the opportunity to travel and enjoy the numerous festivals held during the summer. Witnessing the lantern ceremony to commemorate the victims of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and experiencing the hustle and bustle of Gion Matsuri in Kyoto gave me unforgettable



Ms. Khou with her host researcher

insights into the culture of Japan. Looking back now, my summer in Japan was a culturally enriching and academically rewarding quest that I wouldn't want to have missed.

Ms. Natalie D. Beckman-Ross

(Graduate student, Colorado State University) at Hokkaido University
Her host: Prof. Futoshi Nakamura

The JSPS Summer Program allowed me to collaborate with Japanese researchers, but also to explore the natural beauty of northern Japan. I worked with Prof. Futoshi Nakamura to study wood in rivers, and used data from Colorado and Japan to test if log decay can be used to indicate the processes which control the amount of wood in a stream. My host and lab mates at Hokkaido University invited me along on their field work, and thanks to them I have counted fish in Tokachi, seen a restoration project (and Japanese cranes) in Kushiro Marsh, and surveyed river cross-sections in the shadow of Hokkaido's tallest mountain. I have hiked and camped in national parks, including Rishiri Mountain where you can look across the sea to Russia. But one of my favorite things has been soaking in an *onsen* after a long day of hiking or field work! Northern Japan is



Ms. Beckman-Ross hiking on Rishiri Mountain (at bottom-right)

much more beautiful and relaxed than I expected, and I'm grateful to have had the chance that the Summer Program afforded me to learn and explore.

Washington, DC

Pre-Orientation for Summer Program Participants under EAPSI Program

On 25-27 March, the JSPS Washington Office assisted the National Science Foundation (NSF) in holding an orientation for its "2012 East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes" program. After the participants received an overall program briefing by NSF, they divided up into sessions for their respective destination countries. In the Japan session, Washington Office deputy director Ms. Fumiyo Kaneko described Japanese culture and gave the participants a rudimentary lesson in Japanese language. Next, Washington Office director Dr. Hiroataka Sugawara offered a lecture on Japan's sci-

ence policy and research activities, replete with a message of encouragement for the Japan-bound participants. Then, NSF Tokyo



Regional Office director Dr. Anne Emig and Ms. Kaneko provided a detailed explanation of the required travel processing and upcoming program schedule.

Sixty-five young US researchers would be going to Japan for a 2-month internship in the summer. Upon arrival, they would receive an orientation, followed by a research stint in universities and research institutes around the country. The plan was for them to experience Japanese culture while getting a firsthand grounding in Japan's research environment.

— JSPS Washington Office

Bonn

Summer Program Pre-Orientation

On 16 May, the JSPS Bonn Office held a pre-orientation for young researchers selected to participate in this year's Summer Program in Japan. Venued this time at the Gustav Stresemann Conference Centre in Bonn, the meeting is held each year to give the young participants a robust kick off to their research careers in cooperation with Japanese colleagues, while offering them an opportunity to get acquainted with each other. This year would see the largest number of German participants dispatched to the Summer Program. Twelve of the 15 attended this pre-orientation.

The meeting began with remarks from

Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, followed by a briefing on the fellowship programs of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), self-introductions by the participants, an explanation of the Summer Program, and an introduction to the JSPS fellowship programs to which the participants will be eligible to apply across the span of their careers. After a photo shoot and coffee break, two past Summer Program participants reported on their experiences, while offering the outbound researchers tangible advice on researching and living in Japan. Finally, a member of the German JSPS Club's executive board introduced the



alumni association and its activities, and engaged the participants in an energetic bout of questions and answers.

— JSPS Bonn Office

London

Pre-Departure Seminar and Alumni Evening

On 25 May, the JSPS London Office held a pre-departure seminar for UK researchers scheduled to go to Japan under the Summer Program and other JSPS fellowships. It was attended by 36 Japan-bound researchers.

At the seminar, JSPS programs were introduced as were the Japan-exchange

programs of the British Council and Royal Society, and members of UK JSPS Alumni Association told about their research experiences in Japan. Following it, an Alumni Evening was held to create a network between the new fellows and the alumni members. The opportunity was used by the

alumni to introduce the association's Japan-revisit systems—the BRIDGE Fellowship Program and FURUSATO Award—and its UK-Japan symposium schemes. They also introduced an event that will be held this fall to celebrate the 80th anniversary of JSPS's establishment. Then, *Nature* senior editor Dr. Barbara Marte spoke on the weighty need for international collaboration.

Afterwards, the participants said that they enjoyed the chance to talk directly with staffs from JSPS's Tokyo headquarters and found informative the discussion on what they would need to facilitate their stays in Japan. They also said that hearing from the past fellows added a degree of anticipation and excitement to their upcoming experience in Japan.

— JSPS London Office



Introducing JSPS Alumni Associations



JSPS Alumni Association of Thailand (JAAT)

1. Introduction

The JSPS Alumni Association of Thailand (JAAT) was established on 5 February 2010, the day celebrating the 20th anniversary of JSPS's Bangkok Office. At that inaugural ceremony, a congratulatory message was delivered by Prof. Motoyuki Ono, then president of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. JAAT's president Dr. Busaba Yongsmith, professor, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University, now in her second term, has served in the post since the association's establishment.

JAAT is an outgrowth of the Association of RONPAKU Alumni of Thailand (ARAT), established in February 2005 with the support of Dr. Toshiomi Yoshida, director of JSPS's Bangkok Office (from 2003-2007). It has since developed into an expansive forum for all former JSPS fellows, accelerated by Dr. Kou Ikejima, director of JSPS Bangkok Office (from 2007-2010). The members comprise past participants in such JSPS programs as its postdoctoral and invitational fellowships for overseas researchers in Japan and its Core University Program. JAAT's initial name was the JSPS Alumni Forum of Thailand (JAFT), amended in its third General Assembly on 3 February 2012 for the purpose of officially chartering the association in Thailand.

JAAT's mission is to provide a hub for all JSPS alumni in Thailand. It serves as a matrix in which knowledge is incubated,



JAAT president Dr. Yongsmith



At February 2011 RONPAKU Award Ceremony

exchanged and integrated so as to advance scientific activities that will accrue to national development. Strengthening the relationship between Thai and Japanese academic institutions with the help of the Bangkok Office is another of JAAT's major roles.

At present, JAAT has 83 regular members. Its nine executive committee members carry out a variety of functions in such capacities as the association's secretary and accountant. Executive committee meetings are held regularly with the attendance of the JSPS Bangkok Office director.

2. Major Activities

Since 2005, JAAT has carried out biannual S&T activities. In February, a symposium is held in conjunction with the JSPS-NRCT RONPAKU Medal Award Ceremony. In August, the association participates in the Thailand Research Expo held annually by the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) by carrying out theme-specific semi-

nars, panel discussions and R&D exhibits.

From FY 2010, JAAT has provided opportunities for its members to revisit Japan through JSPS's BRIDGE Fellowship Program. Upon their return to Thailand, the dispatched researchers hold reporting seminars at their affiliated organizations for the edification of younger colleagues, who are potential future JSPS fellows. Such reporting seminars have already been held twice, one at Kasetsart University and the other at National Cancer Institute of Thailand.

On another plane, JAAT holds several academic events for Thai researchers, community leaders, and the interested public. The Thai people have gotten to know more about us through these activities. Including those listed to the lower left, they have yielded tangible results on the ground in Thai society.

In April 2011 after the great earthquake and tsunami, JAAT's members raised a donation and sent it along with a message of condolence to Japanese Red Cross Society via the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok.

3. Future Vision

As illustrated above, JAAT was born and raised in close cooperation with the JSPS Bangkok Office, while its decision makings has always been carried out autonomously at the association's executive committee meetings and general assemblies. Over the association's first two years, it has taken several steps to gain registration as a judicial entity, seeking increasingly more autonomy in its operation. As the first JSPS alumni association in Southeast Asia, JAAT eyes a leading role pursued in collaboration with sister alumni associations in this and other regions of the world.

— JSPS Alumni Association of Thailand

Seminars		
Dec 2005	ARAT Seminar	Tsunami Lessons Learned from the December 26th 2004 Tsunami and Preparation for the Future
Feb 2007	ARAT Seminar	Fundamentals and New Technology in Earthquake Engineering
Feb 2011	JAFT Seminar	Biochar: A Carbon Negative Technology Approach to Urban Community Development
Research Expos		
Sep 2006	Thailand Research Expo 2006	Thailand-Japan Cooperation Program: JSPS RONPAKU (Dissertation PhD) Program on Country Development
Sep 2008	Thailand Research Expo 2008	Outstanding ARAT Members and Their Research Activities on the Sustainable Development of the Country
Aug 2009	Thailand Research Expo 2009	Thai People to Know about, Move Forward to, and Cope with Global Warming
Aug 2010	Thailand Research Expo 2010	Seeking New Knowledge in Social Sciences and Humanities in Resolving the Social Crisis
Aug 2012	Thailand Research Expo 2012	Academic Initiatives to Foster the Thai Rice Farming Sector
Others		
Jun 2011	JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Reporting Seminar in collaboration with JSPS Guidance Session at Kasetsart University	
Aug 2011	"People Participation in Green Areas Development for Reducing Global Warming" under Climate Thailand Conference 2011	
Jan 2012	JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Reporting Seminar in collaboration with JSPS Guidance Session at National Cancer Institute of Thailand	

Ibaraki Prefectural Namiki Secondary School/ Namiki High School

Date: 2 May

Dr. Wisoot CHAN-IT (Thailand)

Host institution: Saitama Medical University

Title: "Gene Therapy"

Dr. Lorenzo JAMONE (Italy)

Host institution: Waseda University

Title: "From the Beauty of Science to Bio-inspired Robotics"

Dr. Akos KOPPER (Hungary)

Host institution: Kanagawa University

Title: "Problems of Enquire in Social Sciences—Talk about Borders, Mobility, Citizens"

Dr. Tao WU (China)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Culture and Traditions of China/Vegetable Breeding"

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

Date: 16 June

Dr. Madhavi INDRAGANTI (India)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Thermal Comfort Field Study, Research in Indian Offices"



Date: 30 June

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

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Competition Law: What Is It?, Why Does It Exist?, and Who Enforces It?"



Niigata Municipal Bandai Senior High School (Niigata)

Date: 22 June

Dr. Md.asad-Ud DOULLAH (Bangladesh)

Host institution: Niigata University

Title: "Introduction to Bangladesh and Bangladeshi Culture, and Genetic Analysis of Resistance in Brassica Crops"



Toyama High School (Toyama)

Date: 20 June

Dr. Giorgio F. COLOMBO (Italy)

Host institution: Ritsumeikan University

Title: "Researching Law, ADR and Litigation in a Comparative Context"

Wakasa Senior High School (Fukui)

Date: 26 June

Dr. Nicolas K. JOANNIN (France)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Malaria and Me"

Fujishima Senior High School (Fukui)

Date: 24 May

Dr. Johan M. UNGA (Sweden)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Liposomes—From Basic Chemistry to Application as Drug Delivery Systems"



Ishikawa Prefectural Nanao High School

Date: 11 June

Dr. Andrew D. BROOKE-TAYLOR (UK)

Host institution: Kobe University

Title: "My Life as a Mathematician"

Dr. Chunlei WANG (China)

Host institution: Tohoku University

Title: "Pollen Tube Growth"

Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Date: 18 June

Dr. Christopher J. HIPOLITO (Canada)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Using 'In Vitro' Selection for Cyclic Peptide Inhibitors of Multidrug Transporters"

Nagano Prefecture Suwa Seiryō High School

Date: 25 June

Dr. Simon J. WOOD (Switzerland)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Symmetry and Physics"

Gizan Senior High School (Gifu)

Date: 26 June

Dr. Lou A. ANTOLIHAI (Philippines)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Science as Sightseeing: Tourism and the Fascinating Field of Sociology"

Shimane Prefectural Hamada High School

Date: 14 June

Dr. Veronica S. CHEDEA (Romania)

Host institution: Shimane University

Title: "From Romania to Japan, Oxidation and Antioxidants"

Ikeda High School (Kagoshima)

Date: 25 June

Dr. Alejandro A. REYES-BERMEDEZ (Australia)

Host institution: University of the Ryukyus

Title: "Cellular Mechanisms Regulating Tissue Homeostasis in Scleractinian Corals"



Hailing from China, Dr. Qiao-Hui Fan has been conducting research with his host researcher, Dr. Yoshio Takahashi, in the Department of Earth and Planetary Systems Science at Hiroshima University under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship since November 2011. After obtaining his master's and PhD degrees at Lanzhou University, he chose Japan as a destination to start his research career abroad.

What are you currently researching under the JSPS fellowship?

I have a wide range of research interests and am working on three different research topics, two having to do with the mineral ferrihydrite found in several types of environment at the Earth's surface: One is the trace-metal ion distribution between ferrihydrite and manganese oxide and the other sulfur isotopic fractionation on ferrihydrite. I am also investigating the mobility of radiocesium in natural soil. As a specific example, I am working to confirm adion (adsorbed ion) speciation on a charged ferromanganese crust and sediment surface using X-ray absorption fine structure spectroscopy. It is very important for us to gain an understanding of the interaction mechanism between metal ions and marine sediments or crust.

How did you become interested in your research field?

In China, students choose their major before entering the university. To be honest, I was not really into my research field of chemistry at that point. But, I did think that chemistry was interesting because it allows us to create new materials through such processes as mixing different substances or heating/cooling them. As I learned more about chemistry, I became increasingly interested in it and enjoyed working in the field.

How did you get to know your Japanese host researcher?

Dr. Takahashi is a very well known scientist in the fields of geochemistry and environmental science. I got to know about him from reading his papers when I was a master's student in China. He has done a great many valuable studies on the interaction between humic acid and ions, which is of importance in explaining the influence of natural organic matter on ion transport in environmental media. Being interested in such aspects of his work, I wrote to Dr. Takahashi and asked about the possibility of him becoming my host

researcher. My first meeting with him was at an international conference, Pacifichem 2010, held in Hawaii. Though I was a little nervous to be meeting such a famous scientist, that first encounter was valuable not only to get a feel for his personality but also to discuss a research plan for my stay in Japan as a JSPS fellow.

Why did you choose Japan to pursue your research?

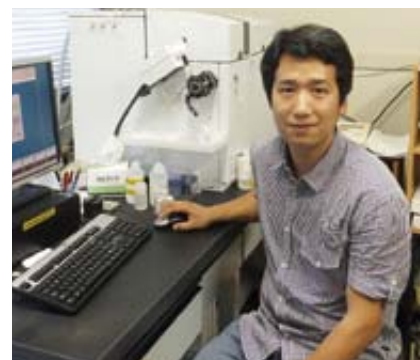
Needless to say, Japan has many prominent scientists, advanced apparatuses, and an optimum research atmosphere. Looking at the latest scientific achievements, it's plain to see that Japanese researchers are making heavy contributions to science. That is why so many researchers from all over the world desire to come and advance their work here in Japan. In China, not only master's and doctoral students but also undergraduates want to come to Japan to study and do research in pursuit of their dreams. In my case, I had also received an offer for a 2-year postdoc position from a French university with terms similar to the JSPS fellowship. However, I chose to come to Japan without any hesitations because I thought the JSPS fellowship program was well adapted to overseas researchers, besides being highly appraised in China. Since my wife and I came to Japan, we have really enjoyed the Japanese study environment and lifestyle, which confirms that my decision was right.

What is your impression of your host institution?

My institution, the Earth and Planetary Systems Science, is located in Higashihiroshima City. It offers an interdisciplinary curriculum including geology, geography, chemistry and environment. Each of its laboratories owns a lot of advanced equipment and is efficiently run by very motivated and dedicated staffs and students, who usually work late into the evening. All the members of our laboratory are friendly to me and supportive in both my work and life in Japan.

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

Japanese universities are excellent and have nourished many outstanding scientists. The researchers' diligent and strict attitude has touched my heart deeply. No matter whether student or staff, they work very hard from early to late most every day. I think this reflects the true spirit of science.



Dr. Qiao-Hui Fan

Ph.D. (Radiochemistry), Lanzhou University, China, 2011

M.Sc. (Inorganic Chemistry), Lanzhou University, China, 2008

B.Sc. (Chemistry), West Anhui University, China, 2005

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

Recently, I have been focusing on the speciation of radiocesium in Fukushima soil and sediments. Luckily, I have successfully completed all my experiments relative to cesium speciation. Now, I am going to write and submit a research paper for publication in an international journal. Then, I will try my best to advance my other research activities during my tenure.

What do you do outside your research work?

I usually go sightseeing to different places in Japan with my wife. We have already been to Tokyo and Osaka, seeing some historic sites of interest, enjoying a variety of Japanese traditional foods, and making some friends from other countries. In this way, I've been able to learn about Japanese culture and customs, which helps me to enjoy good communication with my colleagues.

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

For me, Japan is a pleasant place to live. Many of its customs are similar to China's, such as writing in *kanji* (Chinese characters). This is probably the reason why we Chinese can get used to the Japanese lifestyle so quickly. Simultaneously, I have found the Japanese to be very kind and warmhearted when it comes to helping you if you encounter problems. Additionally, Japan has been better at maintaining its tradition and history compared to China, where vintage buildings are destroyed to advance economic development.

Before coming to Japan, what kind of image did you have of the country? Has your perception changed after coming here?

Before I came here, I got some information about the Japanese culture and lifestyle from my friends who have lived in Japan for some years. As I expected, Japan is a very clean and beautiful country. I had thought Japan would be filled with modern architecture as it is a highly developed country; however, I was surprised to find how its traditional customs, culture and buildings are so meticulously preserved. In addition, I was impressed with the way that the old and new are made to coexist in harmony.

What do you plan to do after your fellowship ends?

I have not decided where I will go yet. I

might go back to Lanzhou University where I received my master's and PhD degrees. However, I am hoping to stay in Japan until my wife, who is currently a doctoral student in medicine at Hiroshima University, completes her course.

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

Japan is a really good place to study because there are so many excellent scientists and advanced technologies here, which is very important for advancing scientific research. Don't be afraid that you can't do this or that well in Japan. For example, I am not deeply steeped in Japanese culture and customs, nor do I speak Japanese that well. But, I am trying to learn Japanese culture step by

step by communicating with the local people. When I first arrived, I had some challenges to hurdle but soon began to enjoy my life in Japan. All it takes is a little will to pave your way, and I'm sure you will not only get used to but also come to love your life in Japan.

Making a short visit to Dr. Takahashi's laboratory and talking with him and Dr. Fan, the word "mutual trust" popped to mind. We were vividly reminded of the advantage that creating a good relationship with one's host and lab colleagues offers an overseas researcher when conducting research in Japan. It was obvious to us that Dr. Fan will enjoy a productive time during his tenure and great success in his research initiatives.

Introducing Japan: Hiroshima

Dr. Qiao-Hui Fan

I am currently living in Saijo located to the east of Hiroshima, about a 35-minute train ride from the center of the city. If you like Japanese sake, I suggest that you make Saijo part of your visit to Hiroshima. The roads here take you back in time to a place where following chimneys leads you to some of Japan's oldest sake breweries. The visitor is free to drop in and take a sip.

Peace Memorial Park and Museum

Located in Japan's Chugoku Region, Hiroshima has a population of around 1,175,000. Hiroshima is world famous for the anguishing experience it suffered when at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb destroyed a 2-kilometer swath of the city, killing tens of thousands of people outright. To commemorate this monumental event, a Peace Memorial Park was built in the center of the city. Every year, it attracts around 1.5 million visitors.



A-Bomb Dome

To learn more about the city we live in, my wife and I decided to go to this famous park. After visiting the A-Bomb Dome, Children's Peace Monument and Rest House, we went to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. I can vividly recall the feelings that came over me when I entered the building. The sad music and extremely somber atmosphere evoked in me a sense that I was myself experiencing the horrible calamity that had befallen the city's people. All of the watches on display are frozen in time at 8:15. Letters written by such great scientists as Albert Einstein are also preserved for posterity. Perusing the museum's remnants and depictions of that cataclysmic event gives one a stark sense of the awesome power of atomic combustion, along with a deeper appreciation for world peace—and the life we enjoy today.

Miyajima Island

I also highly recommend going to Miyajima, a small island less than an hour's boat ride from the Peace Memorial Park. It is most famous for its giant torii gate, which at high tide seems to float upon the sea, and Itsukushima Shrine, which is built over the water. We found Miyajima to be a really romantic spot. Although it can be crowded with tourists during day, the

place becomes much quieter and peaceful in the evening. On the island, we enjoyed tasty foods, a depth of Japanese culture and history, and a touch of nature including wild deer. You might also want to take in this special place when you come to Hiroshima.



Giant torii gate of Miyajima





Cover photo:

Autumn ginkgo leaves and nuts

Under a pulpy outer layer lies the ginkgo nut, used to garnish many kinds of Japanese cookery.

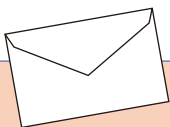
About JSPS

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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