

# JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



## TOPICS

No. **42**  
2012  
Winter

● 2012 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology .....	2
● JSPS Abend and Commendation for German JSPS Club .....	3
● Get-together Held for Young Participants of STS forum .....	4
● MoU Signing Ceremony Held with Inserm .....	4
● Meeting with Egyptian Ministers .....	4
● Sixth Meeting of ASIAHORCs Held in Beijing .....	5
● Meeting of Heads of Research Councils in Asia Held in Japan .....	5
● JSPS Strasbourg Office Holds Program Briefing at University of Le Havre .....	6
● First Japan-Sweden Fellowship/Research Network Held .....	6
● Finland Alumni Club Holds General Meeting and Seminar .....	6
● Lectures Held in Northern Europe via S&T Diplomacy .....	7
● BioNano Workshop Held in Sweden .....	7
● Colloquium on Cell Research Held in Stockholm .....	7
● University Museum Symposium Held at University of East Anglia .....	8
● Mechanochemical Cell Biology Symposium Held in the UK .....	8
● Energy Materials Conferences Held at Loughborough University .....	8
● Commemorative Lecture Delivered by Dr. Keiko Ozato at NIH .....	9
● Space Science Colloquium Held in South Africa .....	9
● Joint JSPS-CASS Symposium Held in Beijing .....	9
● JSPS-NRCT Seminar Held in Thailand .....	10
● Visit with Indian Ambassador .....	10
● Third Symposium Held by Indian JSPS Alumni Association .....	10
● Introducing the Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA) .....	11
● Science Dialogue .....	12
● Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow / Introducing Japan: Sendai .....	14-15

## 2012 Recipient Chosen for International Prize for Biology

On 7 September, the Committee on the International Prize for Biology (chaired by Dr. Takashi Sugimura, vice president, the Japan Academy) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, decided to present the 28<sup>th</sup> (2012) International Prize for Biology to Dr. Joseph Altman, who is a Professor Emeritus at Purdue University, USA.

The field of specialization for the 28<sup>th</sup> Prize is "Neurobiology." Dr. Altman proved that neurons continue to be generated in certain areas of the adult mammalian brain. In particular, he discovered persistent neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus, a center for spatial perception, memory and learning, and he predicted that this was involved in the regulation of brain functions. Dr. Altman's discoveries were reaffirmed 30 years later and are considered to have laid the foundations for the now rapidly developing research fields of adult neurogenesis and its clinical applications.

Until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was believed that there were no neuron-generating stem cells in the adult mammalian brain, and that, once constructed, neural circuits could not be repaired after injury. In the 1960s Dr. Altman showed clearly, by labeling dividing cells with

radioactive tracers and performing meticulous anatomical analyses, that neural progenitor cells capable of dividing did exist in the brains of adult rats and that neurogenesis persisted in some regions, including the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus and the lateral ventricles. Further, he investigated the effects of ablating newborn neurons by X-irradiation, thereby demonstrating their importance in the expression of higher brain functions such as learning. For many years the significance of these revolutionary findings was not fully appreciated, but in the 1990s the phenomenon of adult neurogenesis was rediscovered in many mammals, including humans, and the validity of Dr. Altman's research became clear. He has published many superb books, including atlases of brain development.

Today, the study of adult neurogenesis is seeing explosive growth, and topics such as its relationship with neuropsychiatric disorders and its physiological significance in the expression of higher brain functions are popular research subjects. Clinical applications are also anticipated in the area of regenerative therapy for brain damage and disease. Dr. Altman's distinguished work has created a field of neuroscience and contributed greatly to its advancement.



Dr. Joseph Altman

### Award Ceremony

The award ceremony was held on 26 November at the Japan Academy. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress attended the ceremony and a party held in honor of the award recipient.

### Commemorative Symposium

To commemorate the award to Dr. Altman, the 28<sup>th</sup> International Prize for Biology Commemorative Symposium on Neurobiology was held on 28 and 29 November in Kobe.

### Dr. Joseph Altman

**Nationality:** United States of America

**Present position:** Professor Emeritus, Purdue University, USA

#### Curriculum Vitae:

1995-present	Professor Emeritus, Purdue University
1968-1995	Professor, Purdue University
1962-1968	Associate Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1961	Assistant Professor, New York University
1960	Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University
1959	Ph.D., New York University

#### Awards and Distinctions:

2011	Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research
------	--

— General Affairs Division

## JSPS Abend and Commendation for German JSPS Club

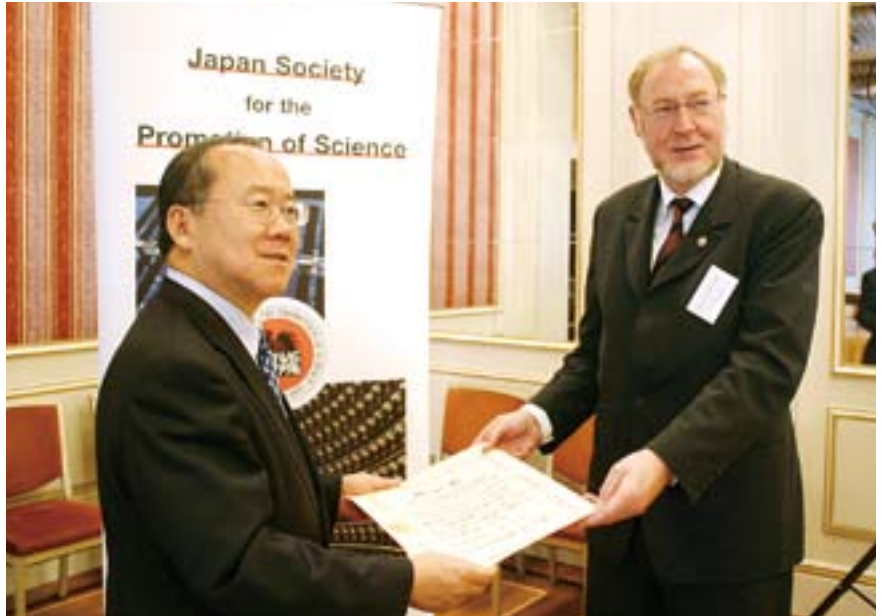
Organized by the JSPS Bonn Office, JSPS Abend 2012 was held on 25 September in Bonn. This event is held every year to introduce JSPS's activities and expand the office's academic circle of German counterpart organizations, universities and researchers. Attended by many distinguished guests, this year's event celebrated JSPS's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JSPS Bonn Office.

In his opening address, JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai expressed his hearty appreciation to all in attendance for their cooperation with JSPS and its Bonn Office over long years. Following him, a congratulatory message was delivered by Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner, president of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

On this occasion, a ceremony to award the 2012 Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation was held by Mr. Takeshi Nakane, Ambassador of Japan. After offering a congratulatory message to the JSPS Abend organizer and guests, Ambassador Nakane conferred the Minister's Commendation on the German JSPS Club. Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhaus, chair of the German JSPS Club, received the award as the association's representative.

Also highlighting the event was a special lecture by Dr. Anzai on the theme "Mind and Brain," which informed the guests on functions of the human brain and entertained them with quizzes.

In the latter half of the event, Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, president of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and Dr. Enno Aufderheide, secretary general of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), delivered congratulatory addresses. Dr. Anzai and the JSPS staff chatted and exchanged greetings with the guests while enjoying an interlude of fascinating harp music. The event closed with words of appreciation by Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, director of JSPS Bonn Office.



Dr. Menkhaus receiving the Commendation from Ambassador Nakane



Dr. Anzai giving a lecture

— JSPS Bonn Office

## Celebrating the Foreign Minister's Commendation on the Club

A gathering was also held in Japan on 7 November to announce the conferral of the commendation on the Club. It was attended by alumni members residing in Japan, representatives of German and Japanese academic institutions and government agencies, and Japanese researchers.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, conferred to acknowledge their contribution to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. The Commendation also aims to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese public for their activities.



## Get-together Held for Young Participants of STS forum

Assembling world leaders from the S&T, political, business and media communities, the ninth annual meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* was held in Kyoto over the period of 7-9 October. With support from JSPS, a total of nine outstanding young researchers from countries around the world, including Japan, participated in the 3-day event.

On the first day of the *forum*, JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai hosted a luncheon for the young researchers. After he



Dr. Anzai and young researchers at the luncheon

offered welcoming remarks, one by one the researchers introduced themselves. Then, the participants were given an introduction to various JSPS international programs that they may take advantage of in the future. Many questions regarding these programs and the research environment in Japan were asked by the young researchers.

This STS *forum* was the first time for most of these young researchers to attend a meeting that offered them a chance to talk about and help formulate research policy. At the luncheon, they spoke about how meaningful this sort of opportunity was for them. Dr. Anzai encouraged each young researcher by offering comments on their work. From beginning to end, the get-together enjoyed a friendly and pleasant atmosphere.

On the last day of the *forum*, the young researchers presented their "Report by the Future Leaders 2012," and gave related speeches in which they said the *forum* had reconfirmed the role and importance of science and technology in solving issues confronting humankind. They also said that they looked forward to a wider spectrum of stakeholders participating in this agenda, and that in moving it forward they hoped young researchers will continue to be given an opportunity to play a role in the STS *forum*.

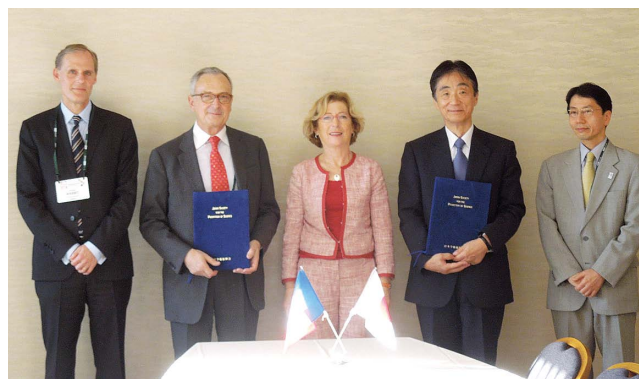
— Research Cooperation Division II

## MoU Signing Ceremony Held with Inserm

On 7 October, a signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between JSPS and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center, the venue for the annual meeting being held by the Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum*.

From JSPS, the ceremony was attended by president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, International Program Department director Mr. Hisashi Kato, and deputy director Mr. Kiyoshi Saito; from the Ministry of Education and Science, by Mr. Toru Ishida, director, International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau. Attending the ceremony from Inserm were chairman and CEO Prof. André Syrota, scientific advisor Prof. Jean-Marc Egly, and Department of National and Foreign Affairs deputy director Mr. Philippe Arhets. Also in attendance from France were Ms. Geneviève Fioraso, Minister of Higher Education and Research, and Mr. Christian Masset, Ambassador, Embassy of France in Japan, who had come to Kyoto to attend the STS *forum*. Throughout the ceremony, a friendly and congenial atmosphere prevailed.

Under the existing bilateral program between JSPS and Inserm, both sides have supported their own teams in carrying out joint research projects. Now, the new MoU puts aside joint research in favor of a more flexible and responsive framework of small-scale,



From the left: Ambassador Masset, Prof. Syrota, Ms. Fioraso, Dr. Anzai, Mr. Ishida

high-caliber seminars and individual researcher dispatches. Revised based on policy imperatives in the two countries, this program approach is expected to advance the Franco-Japanese partnership while adding a new dimension to research cooperation in both countries.

Application calls for seminars and researcher exchanges will be issued under the new MoU in September 2013, with support beginning in FY 2014.

— Research Cooperation Division I

## Meeting with Egyptian Ministers

On 7 October, JSPS executives met in a confab with Egyptian ministry officials, including Prof. Dr. Nadia Iskandar Zakhary, Minister of Scientific Research and Technology; Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Mohamed Sakr, executive director, Science and Technology Development Fund, Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology; and Dr. Galal Eldeen Hamza Elgemeie, First Under-Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs and Missions, Egyptian Ministry of Higher

Education, along with Prof. Dr. Ahmad B. Khairy, president, Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST).

JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai thanked the Egyptian members for the close collaboration they have given in support of bilateral exchange since the memorandum of understanding was signed between JSPS and the former Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 2009, and spoke of the strong

need for collaboration between the two countries. Following some introductory remarks by Dr. Zakhary, the group engaged in an exchange of views in which the Egyptian delegation requested JSPS to expand its bilateral program, support research aimed at industrialization, increase researcher exchanges, give the RONPAKU (Dissertation PhD) Program stronger linkage to the Ministry of Higher Education and E-JUST, and strengthen its support for E-JUST in fields of the humanities and social sciences. In response, Dr. Anzai explained that JSPS's policy places emphasis on basic research, which would make it difficult to support or carry out programs closely linked to specific universities or research institutions, while strongly agreeing that it will be very important to carry out future academic exchanges in fields of the humanities and social sciences.

— Asian Program Division



## Sixth Meeting of ASIAHORCs Held in Beijing

On 9-12 October, the sixth meeting of the Asian Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs) was hosted in Beijing by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Originally proposed by JSPS and launched in 2007, ASIAHORCs works to promote scientific advancement and young researcher development in the Asian region.

This year's meeting brought together representatives of



leading science-promotion organizations from Japan, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Their discussion centered on the theme "Evaluation of Science Funding System and Quality of Science," while also exchanging views on ideas for future collaboration. The members introduced the evaluation processes used in their research funding systems and touched upon future challenges. In JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai's presentation, he introduced the peer review process used in JSPS's Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists programs, and the results they yield. He also talked about the innovative project assessment process installed in the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI), and explained the self-evaluation and external evaluation systems JSPS employs and the Future Vision Study Group it convenes. These review and evaluation systems touched a high chord of interest among the members, evoking a vigorous discussion with many questions and answers.

Next year's ASIAHORCs meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences in November.

— Asian Program Division

## Meeting of Heads of Research Councils in Asia Held in Japan

On 18-20 September, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Heads of Research Councils in Asia (A-HORCs) was held in Sendai. These meetings are held annually for the purpose of allowing the heads of the top science-promotion organizations in Japan, China and South Korea to meet and exchange views on their countries' S&T policies and other matters of mutual interest. This year's meeting was attended by Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, president, JSPS; Dr. Seung Jong Lee, president, National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF); and Dr. Rongkai Lu, deputy director general, Bureau of International Cooperation, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

Each gave a country presentation and answered the other's questions on the theme "Policies for Enhancing Basic Research" while engaging in a discussion on the S&T strategies of each country and programs carried out by each organization. They also discussed their two jointly implemented programs: the A3 Foresight Program and Northeastern Asian Symposiums.

Concurrent with the A-HORCs meeting, the 14<sup>th</sup> Northeastern Asian Symposium was held on the theme "Biomaterial and Nano-bio Technology." Attended by 26 researchers from the three



countries, the symposium laid the groundwork for advancing future joint research in this critical field.

Next year, the 11<sup>th</sup> A-HORCs meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> Northeastern Asian Symposium will be hosted by NSFC in China.

— Asian Program Division

## JSPS Strasbourg Office Holds Program Briefing at University of Le Havre

On 20 September, staff from the JSPS Strasbourg Office visited the University of Le Havre to hold a program-introduction meeting at its Laboratoire Ondes et Milieux Complexes (LOMC). This laboratory has been selected as one of the most excellent in France by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research under its program “Investments for the Future (Investissements d’Avenir).” It plays an important role, along with laboratories in Rouen and Caen, in advancing the fields of energy and material sciences in the Normandy region.

The meeting included a presentation on JSPS’s international programs and talks by three former JSPS fellows: Prof. Bernard Deconihout of the University of Rouen, vice-president of the JSPS French Alumni Association, and Dr. Jorge Peixinho and Prof. Ioan Schneider of LOMC, each of whom enthusiastically

introduced his unique and valuable research experiences in Japan, arousing the interest of the young researchers in the audience. After the meeting, the JSPS members held further discussions with Prof. Cyrille Bertelle, vice-president, and Prof. Cristian Nichita, director of the International Relations Department, University of Le Havre, to encourage even closer cooperation between France and Japan.



Dr. Peixinho giving briefing at LOMC

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

## First Japan-Sweden Fellowship/Research Network Held

On 20 September, JSPS teamed up with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) and the Embassy of Japan in Sweden to hold the “1st Japan-Sweden Fellowship/Research Network” event at the Academy to promote network building among Japanese researchers working in Sweden, JSPS alumni, former Japanese government scholarship fellows, and Swedish researchers interested in exchanges with Japan. Following welcoming addresses by Prof. Staffan Normark, permanent secretary, KVA, Prof. Yoshiaki Fujii, director, JSPS Stockholm Office, and Mr. Yoshiki Watanabe, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Sweden, former fellows and JSPS alumni members gave talks on their experiences in Japan and their ensuing activities in Sweden.



Being the first opportunity in Sweden for researchers having affiliation with Japan to get together, the event attracted strong local interest, assembling over 130 researchers. Each of the implementing agencies set up booths and provided information on their programs. Our Stockholm Office’s booth provided information of JSPS fellowship programs and joint research initiatives. Attracting wide interest, many Swedish researchers gravitated to it. All in all, the event provided a vibrant platform for researchers, university students and faculty, and agency representatives to meet and engage in an active exchange of views and information. A decision was made to continue this event under the title “Sweden-Japan Academic Network” from next year onward.

On the same day, the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden held its general assembly, in which a report was given on the current year’s activities and a policy decided for the following year’s activities, new members were confirmed, and the Club chair elected. By holding the networking event and the Club’s general meeting in tandem, many researchers became aware of the alumni association and expressed interest in joining it. In future years, the Club will continue lending its support to convening the Sweden-Japan Academic Network event.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## Finland Alumni Club Holds General Meeting and Seminar

On 17 September, the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland held its general meeting and a seminar at the University of Helsinki. At the meeting, a report was given on the current year’s activities, new members confirmed, executives rotated, and honorary members selected. A proposal was voiced to enhance the Club’s webpage embedded in the JSPS Stockholm Office’s website operated by the Office’s local staff, and a decision made to proceed in doing so with the cooperation of the Club’s executives.

Then, a seminar was held on the theme “Ice and Snow.” The seminar had been planned in cooperation between the Club and Hokkaido University’s Helsinki Office. Attended by about 50 people, the seminar began with a Finnish student who had studied in Japan telling about his experiences, followed by lectures from Prof. Takeo Hondoh, vice president, Hokkaido University, Dr. Ralf Greve, professor, Hokkaido University, and three specialists in the



subject field. Their presentations and the animated discussion they spawned culminated in a very successful event.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## Lectures Held in Northern Europe via S&T Diplomacy

In FY 2012, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the new "Professionals Exchange Program for Promoting Diplomacy in Science and Technology" aimed at introducing Japanese science and technology abroad through lecture series by Japanese specialists. The Embassy of Japan in Sweden linked up with the JSPS Stockholm Office to apply for support under this program. Our selection led to cooperation between the Japanese embassies in Sweden, and those in Denmark and Finland, and to our Stockholm Office requesting Hokkaido University's Helsinki Office to dispatch a lecturer from the university to Northern Europe. In this way, a new form of collaboration was established among the JSPS Office, Japanese embassies, and Japanese universities.



Over the period of 21-27 October, Dr. Masaaki Morikawa, professor, Hokkaido University, visited three countries in the region and spoke at the following listed institutions on green innovation and possibilities for cooperation among specialists in related fields: The Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Royal Institute of Technology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Aalto University, Finnish Cleantech Cluster, and Technical University of Denmark.

In his lectures, Dr. Morikawa introduced work being advanced in the field of biotechnology under the Advanced Low Carbon Technology Research and Development Program at his university. He placed focus on the development of high-order plant bioprocesses using symbiotic microorganism interactions in the rhizosphere, while speaking about future possibilities of producing efficient biomass energy by increasing plant growth through the optimal design of biofilm on plant-root surfaces, and of achieving water purification with only solar energy by designing effective plant-root symbioses.

These lectures evoked probing discussions and volleys of questions. At each institution, he also held confabs and seminars with research groups in similar fields, with whom he considered forming cooperative relationships.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## BioNano Workshop Held in Sweden

On 15-18 October, the seventh Sweden-Japan BioNano Workshop was held in Stockholm. In it, the discussion was advanced around presentations by Prof. Masuo Aizawa, former president, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Prof. Teruo Okano, Tokyo Women's Medical University, on the Japanese side, and researchers from the Karolinska Institutet on the Swedish side. In addition to these high-quality research presentations, the workshop provided an opportunity for a number of young researchers to participate in the discussion. This series of workshops was introduced at the Japan-Sweden Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology held in May as a successful example of joint research and researcher exchanges carried out between the two countries.

On the first night of the workshop, a reception co-hosted by the JSPS Stockholm Office and the Embassy of Japan in Sweden



was held at the Ambassador's residence. Attended by some 40 researchers from the two countries, the reception provided a good opportunity for them to get acquainted with each other and exchange views in prelude to the next day's workshop.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## Colloquium on Cell Research Held in Stockholm

On 23 October, the JSPS Stockholm Office held a colloquium titled "Current Concepts in Regulation of Metabolism, Cell Differentiation and Function" at the Nobel Forum in the Karolinska Institutet (KI). Planning for the event was mainly carried out by Prof. Toshio Suda, Keio University, and Prof. Lorenz Poellinger, KI.



At the colloquium, JSPS Stockholm Office director Prof. Yoshiaki Fujii offered welcoming remarks and gave a brief introduction to the Office's programs, followed by presentations from six researchers from each the Japanese and Swedish sides. They addressed issues on the forefront of life sciences, particularly propagation and differentiation in cancer, neural, and hematopoietic stem cells as well as chromatin cell division mechanisms, cell visualization, and cell differentiation under oxygen tension.

The colloquium was attended by some 70 Swedish and Japanese researchers and students, who engaged each other in a spirited exchange of views. Thus, the event offered an ideal opportunity for the young researchers to hone themselves as future science trailblazers.

— JSPS Stockholm Office

## University Museum Symposium Held at University of East Anglia

On 25-26 October, a joint UK-Japan symposium was held on the theme “Discovery, Display and Debate: New Agendas for University Museums.” Venued at the University of East Anglia, the symposium was initiated upon a proposal by JSPS London Office director Prof. Kozo Hiramatsu.

The symposium featured public lectures, presentations and discussions by British and Japanese researchers, and a visit to the museums of the University of Cambridge. The public lectures on the first day were delivered by Prof. Terufumi Ohno, director, Kyoto University Museum, and Prof. Yoshiaki Nishino, director, University Museum, University of Tokyo, who described the museum programs of their universities. The audience was particularly impressed with Tokyo University’s mobile museum and its various innovative artistic concepts and collaborations. On the second day, six Japanese and three British researchers gave presentations on the activities of their university museums, followed by a discussion on such topics as the intrinsic meaning of university museums and their future prospects. The following day,



a delegation of the Japanese speakers enjoyed an observation tour of the University of Cambridge museums and collections, including the Fitzwilliam Museum and Botanic Garden.

With the symposium having strengthened linkage and cooperation between UK and Japanese university museums, we can look to interesting spin-offs in the future.

— JSPS London Office

## Mechanochemical Cell Biology Symposium Held in the UK

On 23-24 August, the UK-Japan Symposium for Mechanochemical Cell Biology was held at the University of Warwick in Coventry under JSPS London’s scheme for supporting Japanese researchers residing in the UK. It attracted some 60 Japanese and British researchers specializing in such fields as biophysics and cell biology.



At the symposium, the latest research trends were introduced in cell division, substance transport and other areas being elucidated through analyses of the mechanisms and molecular dynamics of motor proteins. As to the theme, “mechanochemical cell biology” is an emerging interdisciplinary science at the crossroads of biology, chemistry and physics. It seeks to understand the active mechanisms of cells driven by molecular motors. It is underscored by the development of new measuring devices that can be applied to living cells vis-à-vis the heretofore physiochemical measurement on a single molecule level. At the symposium, Japanese and British researchers gave presentations on the state of their research in this frontier science and engaged each other in very productive exchanges of views. All came away from the event with high expectations for greater network building and scientific advances in this important field.

— JSPS London Office

## Energy Materials Conferences Held at Loughborough University

On 16-19 October, a UK-Japan symposium was held at Loughborough University in Leicestershire on the themes “Energy Materials: Meeting the Challenge” and “High Temperature Materials.” It was organized by the JSPS London Office under its symposium scheme for supporting the UK JSPS Alumni Association. The event attracted some 100 researchers from various fields including thermal and nuclear power, fuel cells, and biomass energy.

The first 2-day segment of the symposium addressed the theme of materials research, which is a field of priority importance in the UK. Covering such topics as the meaning of energy materials to society, the latest advances in related fields, and changes in Japan’s nuclear power policy, the symposium provided a platform for wide-ranging presentations and opinion exchanges across a spectrum from government-level subjects to energy-related subjects relevant to people’s daily lives. Sessions held in the second 2-day segment featured presentations on research to develop various high temperature materials, delving into their contribution to higher energy efficiency in jet engines, gas turbines, and other types of motors.



The symposium also included a poster session carried out by young researchers, following which an award was presented to the researcher with the best poster. The beaming expression on not only the winner’s but also the other contestants’ faces bespoke the vitality they are sure to put into advancing the next generation of scientific milestones.

— JSPS London Office



## Commemorative Lecture Delivered by Dr. Keiko Ozato at NIH

At the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an “NIH Kinyo-kai (Friday Meeting)” is held monthly for mainly postdoc Japanese researchers working in the US at the NIH. On 5 October, the JSPS Washington Office and members of the NIH Kinyo-kai held a gathering to celebrate the earlier conferral of the Japanese government’s Order of the Sacred Treasure on Dr. Keiko Ozato,



Dr. Ozato is second person from the left on the panel

deputy chief for Laboratory of Molecular Growth Regulation at National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH. She received this commendation for her long years of contributing to the advancement of molecular immunology research and of strengthening medical research cooperation between the US and Japan. From the time that the JSPS fellowship program was established at NIH, Dr. Ozato has chaired its NIH review panel.

In the first half of the get-together, Dr. Ozato gave a commemorative lecture, followed in the second half by a panel discussion on how to establish international careers by experienced Japanese researchers working at NIH.

The some 80 mostly NIH-affiliated Japanese researchers who gathered for this event, extolled the achievements of Dr. Ozato—a female Japanese researcher who in the 1970s went to the US where she advanced her research while overcoming various difficulties, and has contributed greatly to the US-Japan scientific partnership.

— JSPS Washington Office

## Space Science Colloquium Held in South Africa

On 4 October, the JSPS Nairobi Research Station held a colloquium on space science in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in South Africa, South Africa’s Department of Science and Technology, and the University of Pretoria. Venued at the Sanlam Auditorium in the Conference Centre of the University of Pretoria, the colloquium explored the theme “Promoting Space Exploration and Earth Observation: Contribution of Japan and South Africa to Humanity.” Three Japanese researchers were invited to deliver lectures at the event: Dr. Hirohisa Sakurai, professor, Yamagata University; Dr. Shinichi Nakasuka, professor, University of Tokyo; and Dr. Takahiro Nagayama, research assistant professor, Nagoya University. They spoke about leading-edge advances being made in cosmic-ray science, micro-satellites, and astronomy.

Besides South Africa, there are other important focal points for astrophysical research including South America and Australia in the southern hemisphere; when focusing on the African continent, however, only South Africa has a large-scale research base. In gen-



eral terms, South Africa is the advanced country in sub-Saharan Africa within the realm of science and technology. As such, the colloquium attracted the attendance of some 70 young and veteran researchers. The depth and content of the presentations and discussions testified to the high level of expertise possessed by South African researchers.

— JSPS Nairobi Research Station

## Joint JSPS-CASS Symposium Held in Beijing

On 31 August, a symposium commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of normalized relations between China and Japan was held on the theme “Societal Changes Amidst Globalization—Forming a New East Asian Image.”

The symposium attracted about 100 mostly young researchers from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), who addressed such topics as East Asian population migrations amidst globalization, urbanization, the environment, and popular cultures, while taking up a search for new ways to enhance the Sino-Japanese relationship. In this process, they considered, from the perspective of Chinese and Japanese researchers in various fields of the humanities, a new East Asian image and a concept of co-relations within the region.

As this symposium was held during a time of uneasy diplomatic relations between the two countries, an air of tension enveloped the conference hall when the proceedings began. Amidst this initial environment, the Chinese and Japanese researchers quickly



advanced their dialogue by sharing viewpoints. What started on a tense footing gave way to a sense of collegiality among all in attendance.

The JSPS Beijing Office intends to compile the content of the presentations and publish them as a collection of research papers while continuing to hold similar symposiums in the future.

— JSPS Beijing Office

## JSPS-NRCT Seminar Held in Thailand

On 26 August, the “JSPS-NRCT Seminar at Research Expo 2012” was held in the Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld. Themed “Advanced Research in Japan–ASEAN Economic Community and Disaster Management,” the seminar constituted one component of the Thailand Research Expo 2012 sponsored by the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) over the period 24-28 August.

JSPS and NRCT have been holding this series of annual seminars since 2009. In them, researchers in various fields are invited from Japan to give lectures.

Among the Expo’s seven themes, the seminar addressed two:



(1) Research for the Formation of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and (2) Research for Disaster Management. Dr. Pavin Chachavalpongpun, associate professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, and Dr. Akiyuki Kawasaki, project associate professor, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, delivered lectures on these subjects.

Dr. Chachavalpongpun described issues as related to Thailand in moving forward the AEC agenda, while Dr. Kawasaki described the results of an extensive questionnaire survey taken on the Great East Japan Earthquake and the large-scale flooding in Thailand. He explained differences found in disaster information gathering and disseminating behavior in Thailand and Japan and also differences in the way foreigners living in an affected area react to various kinds of disaster information, and he offered a set of proposals for improving disaster information dissemination particularly to foreigners.

Attracting some 50 participants, the event enjoyed an array of questions and comments from the floor, permeating the hall with a spirit of vigor and enthusiasm.

— JSPS Bangkok Office

## Visit with Indian Ambassador

On 23 August, JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai went to the Indian Embassy in Tokyo to visit with Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan. Expressing a strong perception of the need for scientific exchange between India and Japan, Ambassador Wadhwa said she would like to see an invigorated student exchange across the spectrum of academic fields. She also said that the embassy will actively support the Indian JSPS Alumni Association. Agreeing to the need to promote the exchange of young researchers especially postdocs, Dr. Anzai expressed the desire to also promote research collaboration—saying that, in addition to greater cooperation in basic research, support should be directed to collaboration in specific research areas such as information technology. Afterwards,

the two enjoyed a pleasant chat with Ambassador Wadhwa telling Dr. Anzai about her experience while residing in Sweden of coordinating an exchange between India and Swedish universities, and Dr. Anzai telling her about the time he co-chaired the First Japan-India Dialogue of Vice Chancellors/ Presidents on Academic Exchange in New Delhi in 2007.



— Asian Program Division

## Third Symposium Held by Indian JSPS Alumni Association

On 6 August, the Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA) held its third annual conference at the Radisson Blu Hotel Nagpur in Maharashtra. Convened to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, the symposium featured plenary lectures and invited talks by four Japanese and six Indian researchers on the theme “New Age Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.”

In the opening ceremony, Dr. S. R. Wate, director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar, chair, IJAA, and Mr. Shinichi Higuchi, first secretary, Embassy of Japan in India, offered welcoming and opening remarks.

Booths were set up to display materials on the Japanese universi-



ties that have hosted Indian alumni, offering the symposium attendees information on 12 Japanese universities. Presentations were also delivered by representatives of the University of Tokyo and Ritsumeikan University, which have programs funded under the Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization, and by Toyo University, which is scheduled to open an office in India.

The symposium included a poster session by students and researchers, who initiated a new feature of giving flash presentations. In the closing ceremony, two students and two researchers were awarded plaques for having the best poster displays.

The attending students and young researchers could be seen in various settings interacting energetically with the alumni and other researchers from India and Japan, foretelling the next wave of Indian participants in JSPS programs.

The symposium concluded with a message from the symposium organizer Dr. Rajesh B. Biniwale, general secretary of IJAA’s West Chapter—one that evoked a strong sense that Indo-Japanese collaboration will continue to grow and thrive.

— Overseas Fellowship Division

# Introducing JSPS Alumni Associations



## Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA)

The Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA) was formed in May 2006 to create a platform for Indian scientists who have been JSPS or STA fellows to exchange ideas, collaborate and discuss topics of interest. It serves as a link pin among the members who are working in different parts of the globe, as scientific advances are realized through combined efforts and synergies of good brains.

### IJAA's Objective

The principal objective of the IJAA is to promote scientific collaboration, research cooperation, and cultural exchange between India and Japan, while encouraging collaborative work between Indian JSPS fellows, their host researchers and alumni members by providing information and support to make the fellows' research and life in Japan go smoothly.

### Our Organization

IJAA currently has about 250 active members. We also invite Japanese host researchers to become honorary members of our association so as to sustain the good relationships developed during the Indian fellows' tenure in Japan and to promote continued collaboration in the future. Hence, we are working to assemble and correlate the best brains in an effort to boost the members' research through a potent exchange of ideas and resources.

IJAA has four chapters in India reflecting the geographical distribution of its members. Tying together these North, South, East and West chapters, IJAA has an executive committee chaired by Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar, Toyo University in Japan.

### Our Communication Media

IJAA operates a website for bringing all the Indian JSPS alumni together under one umbrella. All of the members' names are posted on the website to enable interested

members to contact each other for such purposes as scientific collaboration. The site also makes it possible for Indian doctoral students who aspire to become JSPS fellows to contact IJAA members for information and guidance. IJAA has also launched an alumni Yahoo Group to facilitate discussion on various issues related to the association and other matters of interest. We conduct polls via the Yahoo Group to reach decisions on some policy matters. The Yahoo Group was established because of the vast geographical distribution of Indian JSPS alumni members throughout the world, and the limiting factor that long distances pose on conducting in-person meetings among the members. IJAA's executive members handle the association's day-to-day activities, including answering aspirants' questions and assisting JSPS fellows in leading a productive research life in Japan.

IJAA now publishes an in-house magazine titled *CONCORD*, through which members and their family members can share creative skills and experiences of living and doing research in Japan. *CONCORD* is provided in the form of an e-newsletter. IJAA's editorial board selects articles and handles the publishing of the magazine.

### General Assemblies and IJAA Symposiums

IJAA holds annual Japan-India science symposiums along with general assemblies in India, each under the leadership of an alumni chapter. They are cosponsored by JSPS and the symposiums are open to the general public. To date, IJAA has held three annual symposiums, one in Delhi (2010 –under IJAA's North Chapter), followed by symposiums in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (2011 –under the South Chapter) and in Nagpur, Maharashtra (2012 –under the West Chapter). Now, we are planning to hold our fourth symposium (2013) in Bhubaneswar, Orissa (under the East Chapter).



At these symposiums, booths are set up by IJAA members to introduce the Japanese universities at which they conducted research. They provide information on the universities' programs and courses to Indian doctoral students and young researchers. This allows them to get information through face-to-face contact with alumni who have firsthand knowledge of the universities. IJAA also provides travel grants for attending these symposiums to Indian doctoral students who are potential future candidates for the fellowship. During the symposiums, IJAA holds a session for poster presentations and short oral presentations by the members and participating doctoral students, allowing them to introduce their work. Under two categories (member and student), awards are given for the best posters.

Along with JSPS's BRIDGE Fellowship Program, IJAA provides invitation fellowships to its members in collaboration with some Japanese universities.

**Finally**, IJAA is interested in developing collaborations with JSPS alumni organizations in other countries and regions so as to form interactive relationships and idea exchanges in ways that cultivate a worldwide consortium of JSPS fellows dedicated to advancing science.

For more information about IJAA, please visit our website: [www.indianjpsalumni.org](http://www.indianjpsalumni.org).

— Indian JSPS Alumni Association



## Takezono High School (Ibaraki)

Date: 12 July

**Dr. Stefania PAGLIARI** (Italy)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science  
Title: "Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering: The Tools of Regenerative Medicine"

## Tochigi Prefectural Utsunomiya Girls' High School

Date: 28 September

**Dr. Alessio CARAVELLA** (Italy)

Host institution: National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology  
Title: "Italy-Japan: A Journey through Science and Life"

**Dr. Andreas FRISCH** (Germany)

Host institution: The National Science Museum  
Title: "Experiencing Lichen Taxonomy"

**Dr. Sebastien R. G. POULLOT** (France)

Host institution: Research Organization of Information and Systems  
Title: "Researcher Profession"

**Dr. Par-Anders SODERSTROM** (Sweden)

Host institution: RIKEN  
Title: "Nuclear Physics of the Universe"

**Dr. Duncan B. SUTHERLAND** (Australia)

Host institution: RIKEN  
Title: "The Healthy Intestine and Its Friendly Bacteria"

## Saitama Prefectural Kumagaya Girls' High School

Date: 26 September

**Dr. Hyung S. YOON** (South Korea)

Host institution: NCNP  
Title: "Reward: The Driving Force for Behaviors"



## Saitama Prefectural Urawa Daiichi Girls' High School

Date: 29 September

**Dr. Phuong T. T. LE** (Australia)

Host institution: Tokyo Metropolitan University  
Title: "Investigating Mitochondrial DNA Replication and Transcription in Body Louse"

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

Date: 15 September

**Dr. Mathew KALLUMADIL** (Austria)

Host institution: Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Title: "Nanotechnology in Cancer Therapy"



Date: 29 September

**Dr. Daniel D. FRIEDRICH** (Germany)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo  
Title: "Gravitational Waves: Listening to the Universe"



## Kanagawa Prefectural Kanagawa Sogo Sangyo High School

Date: 13 September

**Dr. Julien B. LEGRAND** (France)

Host institution: Chuo University  
Title: "Paleofloras and Environments in Japan during the Mesozoic Period"



## Toyama Prefectural Toyama High School

Date: 10 July

**Dr. Junji JIA** (China)

Host institution: Nagoya University  
Title: "The Physical World as We Know It"

## Ishikawa Prefectural Nanao High School

Date: 2 July

**Dr. Chung V. HOANG** (Vietnam)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science  
Title: "Optical Antennas in Light of Nanotechnology"

## Fukui Prefectural Koshi Senior High School

Date: 8 September

**Dr. Gregory G. Y. GUIRIMAND** (France)

Host institution: Osaka University  
Title: "Fluorescent Proteins: Light Your Cells!"



## Fukui Prefectural Takefu High School

Date: 12 July

**Dr. Lyndon A. JORDAN** (Australia)

Host institution: Osaka City University  
Title: "Social Environment and the Evolution of Male Reproductive Strategy"



## Yamanashi Prefectural Kofu Higashi High School

Date: 28 July

**Dr. Benoit THIBODEAU** (Canada)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo  
Title: "The Mystery of Coral Reefs"



## Yamanashi Prefectural Kofu Minami Senior High School

Date: 11 September

**Dr. Petronella H. VAN RIET** (Netherlands)

Host institution: National Institute of Infectious Diseases  
Title: "Improving Influenza Vaccines"

## Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Date: 9 July

**Dr. Thanigaimalai PILLAIYAR** (India)

Host institution: Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Science  
Title: "Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry"

## Yamanashi Prefectural Yoshida High School

Date: 28 August

**Dr. Gunawan S. PRIHANDANA** (Indonesia)

Host institution: Keio University

Title: "MEMS Technology in Fabrication of Micro-Filter for Wearable Artificial Kidney and Micro-Needle for Brain-Machine Interface"

## Nagano Prefecture Suwa Seiryō High School

Date: 24 July

**Dr. John RUSSO** (Italy)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Computer Simulations of Soft Matter Systems"

## Gifu Prefectural Ena High School

Date: 12 September

**Dr. Rustam T. OROZBAEV** (Kyrgyzstan)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Metamorphism of High- to Ultrahigh-Pressure Metamorphic Rocks, Kyrgyz Tien-Shan Mountains"

## Gifu Prefectural Gizan Senior High School

Date: 25 July

**Dr. Vasily N. TSAREV** (Russia)

Host institution: Nagoya University

Title: "Some Facts about Russia and Chemistry; My Research Efforts Therein and Abroad, and Introduction into My Investigations in Japan"

## Shizuoka Prefectural Hamamatsu Minami High School

Date: 24 August

**Dr. Peter SUROVY** (Slovakia)

Host institution: Research Organization of Information and Systems

Title: "Applied Informatics and 3D Measurements in Forest Management"

## Shizuoka Prefectural Iwata Minami High School

Date: 11 July

**Dr. Romain T. FONTUGNE** (France)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Spot the Odd One Out"

## Aichi Prefectural Jishukan Senior High School

Date: 2 August

**Dr. Shin Il KIM** (South Korea)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "ES/iPS Cell and Regenerative Medicine"

**Dr. Phillip R. LITCHFIELD** (UK)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Research with Neutrinos, Life in the United Kingdom"

## Shiga Prefectural Hikone Higashi High School

Date: 18 July

**Dr. Tracy C. BECKER** (USA)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Seismic Isolation for Buildings"

## Ritsumeikan High School (Kyoto)

Date: 23 July

**Dr. Erik O. DARPO** (Sweden)

Host institution: Nagoya University

Title: "How Can You Do Research in Mathematics?"



## Kyoto Prefectural Yamashiro High School

Date: 15 September

**Dr. Thomas M. CONRAD** (USA)

Host institution: Nara Institute of

Science and Technology

Title: "For Science! Opportunities and Explorations"



**Dr. Carsten GUETTLER** (Germany)

Host institution: Kobe University

Title: "Playing with Sand: Analog

Experiments in Planetary Science"



## Akashi National College of Technology (Hyogo)

Date: 19 September

**Dr. Jeremie J. M. BRIEUSSEL** (France)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Construction of Expanding

Graphs"



## Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya International Secondary School

Date: 27 September

**Dr. Gael P. R. DUR** (France)

Host institution: The University of Shiga Prefecture

Title: "The Amazing World of Copepods"

## Mukogawa Women's University Junior & Senior High School (Hyogo)

Date: 15 September

**Dr. Renhua QIU** (China)

Host institution: Osaka University

Title: "Chemistry Changes the World: A Green and Bright Future"

## Seishin Girls' High School (Okayama)

Date: 25 September

**Dr. Lyndon A. JORDAN** (Australia)

Host institution: Osaka City University

Title: "Reproductive Foraging Theory"

## Yamaguchi Prefectural Shimonoseki Secondary School

Date: 10 July

**Dr. MARZUKI** (Indonesia)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Why Is the Atmosphere over Indonesian Maritime Continent Special?"

## Saga Prefectural Chienkan Senior High School

Date: 29 September

**Dr. Edoardo GERLINI** (Italy)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo

Title: "Human Science and Comparative Literature"

**Dr. Vincent J. A. LEBLAN** (France)

Host institution: Kyoto University

Title: "Research on Human and Chimpanzee Coexistence in Guinea, West Africa"

## Kumamoto Prefectural Daini High School

Date: 9 July

**Dr. Roman G. PAVELKO** (Russia)

Host institution: Kyushu University

Title: "Gas Sensors—A 'Melting' Point for Chemistry, Physics and Biology"



*Hailing from Vietnam, Dr. Nam Hoai Do has been conducting research with his host researcher, Dr. Akira Mano, at the Disaster Control Research Center of Tohoku University under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship since November 2011. After finishing his undergraduate education in Vietnam, Dr. Do went to the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand for his master's degree, following which he came to Japan to earn his doctorate and further his research at Tohoku University.*

*What are you currently researching under the JSPS fellowship?*

As a consequence of rising temperatures, the future is very likely to see a dramatic increase in hydrologic extremes. Taking advantage of the great prognosis capability of a super-high resolution climate model, my present research focuses on a long-term projection of precipitation extremes, a driving factor of severe flood disasters around the world. The projected precipitation extremes will be used as input to a coupled hydrologic-hydraulic model for exploring the extent, depth and duration of future extreme inundations, which provides fundamental information for supporting river basin planning and management and for devising strategies for adapting to climate change.

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

My initial interest in this field probably came from the fact that Vietnam suffers from severe floods every year. When choosing my major at the university, I picked water engineering so as to contribute to the development of the country by helping to prevent these disasters. There had been a number of evidences regarding the impact of climate change. I thought that gaining an understanding of hydrologic responses to climate change would be a good way to design effective preventive methods at river basin scales.

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

I met Dr. Mano in 2007 during his visit to my university, the Water Resources University in Hanoi. I was enthralled with his leading research activities in the field of environmental hydraulics. Among which, I was most interested in his pioneering work on the development of advanced technologies for improving flood forecasting practices. This was the first step of my current research. I feel very lucky that Dr. Mano was willing to be my PhD advisor

and that I could continue my work under his supervision as a postdoc researcher with a JSPS fellowship.

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

Both Vietnam and Japan are highly exposed to natural hazards, such as flood disasters, due to similarities in topography and weather patterns. In the area of geo-atmospheric science, Japan is one of the world's leading countries, having the most advanced prognosis technologies. Further, Japan has succeeded in flood risk reduction by developing the newest technologies for flood forecasting and warning, while advancing the analysis of climate change impact. My lessons learned and experiences gained in Japan should be very useful to Vietnam.

*What is your impression of your host institution?*

The Disaster Control Research Center was established in 1990 with a focus on developing advanced technologies for reducing the impact of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunami and floods. The Center, therefore, is an attractive destination for leading scientists and bright students around the world, especially those from countries with high natural hazard exposure. For conducting large-scale simulations of natural phenomena, the Center is equipped with super-power computing platforms, an extensive database, and friendly working spaces.

*That leads me to ask, what is your general impression of Japan's research environment?*

I would say Japan is on the cutting edge of scientific research. Many Japanese universities are top ranked within the Asia-Pacific region. Some fall within the ranks of the world's most leading academic institutions, and a lot of eminent Japanese scientists have received prestigious prizes. The research environment here is very competitive, which spurs new ideas and advanced technologies. Integrated within the flow of globalization, Japan is recognized as one of the world's most vibrant research environments replete with extensive international exchanges and collaborations.

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

Within the context of my present research, we are examining the variability of rainfall at river basin scales in Central Vietnam. We've projected that by the end of this century, pre-



**Dr. Nam Hoai Do**

Researcher, Vietnam Academy for Water Resources  
Ph.D. (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Tohoku University, Japan, 2011

M.Sc. (Water Engineering Management), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, 2003

B.A. (English), Vietnam National University, Hanoi, 1998

B.Sc. (Water Engineering), Water Resources University, Vietnam, 1997

cipitation extremes will rise in both number and magnitude. It is very likely that future precipitation extremes will increase by about 40 percent over the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using our prediction model, areas vulnerable to flooding have been detected. As a result, it's expected that damage can be reduced through effective urban development planning.

*What do you do outside your research work?*

One of my hobbies is exploring new places where interesting culture and customs can be enjoyed. Whenever we have time, my family heads to popular places for sightseeing using Japan's well-developed public transportation system. We have favorite places to visit in each season of the year. We also enjoy going to the countryside, which reminds us of our home country with its similar farming practices. In addition, we're careful not to miss traditional festivals, which give us a deeper understanding of Japan.

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

I think there are many similarities in culture and customs between Japan and Vietnam. I've found that traditional values are deep-rooted among Japanese across generations. Respect, discipline, and dedication are fundamental in Japan's highly structured society. Having a long and traditional history, Japan is a country that maintains its own culture and customs despite its integration within a dynamically changing modern world.

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

When I was a child I learned at school that Japan is the country of the “rising sun,” full of dedicated people with a “samurai spirit” who work hard for good causes while showing compassion for the weak and disadvantaged. For me, this was borne out by the way I witnessed people coping with the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011. I observed the orderly response and resilience of the Japanese people in the face of this unprecedented natural disaster. In all circumstances, people here are always incredibly resilient, sharing, and dedicated when it comes to bettering their country. This is completely different from what I’ve seen in other places I have lived.

*What do you plan to do after your fellowship ends?*

I will definitely go back to my home country to share the knowledge and experiences I have gained in Japan with my colleagues and students. I believe it’s my mission to help reduce the impact of climate change on Vietnam, while contributing to a better life for the Vietnamese people and to the sustainable development of our society.

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

As Japan is a country possessing both advanced science and traditional values, I believe its academic institutions are ideal places for young researchers to pursue their dreams of advancing science. I strongly suggest that you come to Japan where you can work, collaborate and exchange knowledge with leading scientists in a friendly research environment. In addition, you will be able to enjoy the opportunity of experiencing Japan’s

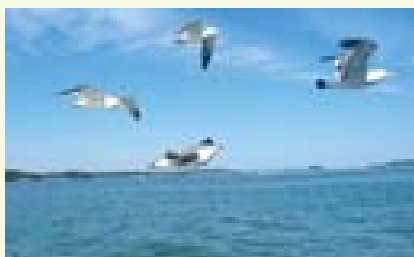
four distinct seasons along with its culture, customs and cuisine, not to leave out its year-round festivals.

*During our interview with Dr. Do, his host researcher, Dr. Mano, kindly took time out of his busy schedule to join us. Through our visit of his lab, we found that its research team maintains close communication with former JSPS fellows, making visits to each other’s countries to continue research collaboration. It was plain to see that Dr. Do’s research has strong potential to contribute to the development of his home country. We look forward to the network being formed between Dr. Do and his Japanese colleagues expanding in ways that will be helpful to him in becoming a leader in his field back in Vietnam as well as in continuing to advance his research in collaboration with Japan.*

## Introducing Japan: Sendai

### Dr. Nam Hoai Do

The Japanese are very fond of their country’s four distinct seasons. Located about 300 kilometers north of Tokyo, Sendai superbly reflects this seasonal transition. In the winter, the area experiences snowfall, though not as heavy in the lowlands as other parts of northern Japan. In the summer, the temperature is much cooler than in the southern area of the country. Spring seems short—a transitional period between winter and summer, accented by the budding and bloom of plum, peach and cherry trees. Autumn is perhaps the most wonderful season with its mild climate and deep blue sky. It is the season when red and yellow leaves paint the landscape, with nature’s colors spreading from the valleys across the mountain slopes. A relatively small city with a population of more or less a million, Sendai is often called an “academic city” due to its atypically large educational sector. Life in Sendai is, therefore, more relaxed than in the bustling big cities to the south.



Matsushima Bay

Each of the seasons features its own tourist attractions. At the beginning of spring, cherry blossoms are exquisite, particularly when viewed along the embankment of the Shiroishi River lined with a thousand cherry trees. In the summer, Matsushima Bay, spotted with 260 pine-clad islets, can be toured on a cruise boat, while enjoying a pleasant sea breeze and the trailing flight of lovely albatross birds. The entire bay can also be viewed from four panoramic observation points along its shoreline. Fall takes the tourist to the Narukokyo Gorge with the Oya River running over waterfalls and in cascades below cliffs covered with scarlet-tinged maple trees and varicolored foliage. Winter brings skiers and snow-fun seekers to the winter wonderland of Mt Zao, located to the west of Sendai. From the top of the mountain, the ski course weaves through snow-draped trees, whose strange shapes

give them the name “snow monsters.” At the bottom of the hill are *onsen*, sulfurous hot-spring spas and baths.

Sendai’s cuisine is always flavorsome and sometimes unique. Besides having delicious *sushi*, *sashimi*, fresh oysters and noodle soups, Sendai is known for its original *gyutan*—slices of cow tongue mixed with tasty ingredients and grilled over a charcoal fire, usually served with barley rice, beef-broth soup, and pickled vegetables. In Sendai, there are many restaurants serving *gyutan*. If you come here, why don’t you drop in one of them and try *gyutan*—I think you’ll like its tender smoky taste.



Family photo at Zuigan-ji Temple in Matsushima





### Cover photo:

#### Osechi Cuisine

Special box-meals prepared for Japanese New Year's with ingredients connoting auspicious meanings: for example, a shrimp = long life, a sea-weed = joy.

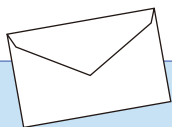
## About JSPS

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.



## New Subscribers, Address Changes, Reader Comments

Contact us at the below email address or fax number if you are not a current subscriber and interested in receiving the *JSPS Quarterly*, or are a subscriber but have changed your mailing address.

Please let us have your comments and impressions about the newsletter.

E-mail: [quarterly@jps.go.jp](mailto:quarterly@jps.go.jp)  
Fax: +81-3-3263-1854

For further information on JSPS's organization and programs, please visit our website [[www.jps.go.jp/english/](http://www.jps.go.jp/english/)], or mail or fax inquiries to JSPS Fellows Plaza using the address or fax number given below. JSPS Quarterly and our brochure may also be downloaded.

#### ● JSPS Fellows Plaza

5-3-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083  
Tel: +81-3-3263-1872 Fax: +81-3-3263-1854  
<http://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/>

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

#### ● JSPS Washington Office

2001 L Street, N.W., Suite 1050,  
Washington, D.C. 20036, USA  
Tel: +1-202-659-8190 Fax: +1-202-659-8199  
E-mail: [info@jpsusa.org](mailto:info@jpsusa.org)  
<http://www.jpsusa.org/>

#### ● JSPS San Francisco Office

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260,  
Berkeley, CA 94704, USA  
Tel: +1-510-665-1890 Fax: +1-510-665-1891  
E-mail: [webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org](mailto:webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org)  
<http://www.jpsusa-sf.org/>

#### ● JSPS Bonn Office

Wissenschaftszentrum, Ahrstr. 58, 53175,  
Bonn, GERMANY  
Tel: +49-228-375050 Fax: +49-228-957777  
E-mail: [info@jps-bonn.de](mailto:info@jps-bonn.de)  
<http://www.jps-bonn.de/>

#### ● JSPS London Office

14 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD, UK  
Tel: +44-20-7255-4660 Fax: +44-20-7255-4669  
E-mail: [enquire@jps.org](mailto:enquire@jps.org)  
<http://www.jps.org/>

#### ● JSPS Stockholm Office

Retzius Vag 3, S171 77 Stockholm, SWEDEN  
Tel: +46-8-5248-4561 Fax: +46-8-31-38-86  
E-mail: [info@jps-sto.com](mailto:info@jps-sto.com)  
<http://www.jps-sto.com/>

#### ● JSPS Strasbourg Office

Maison Universitaire France-Japon  
42a, avenue de la Forêt-Noire,  
67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE  
Tel: +33-3-6885-2017 Fax: +33-3-6885-2014  
E-mail: [jps@japon.u-strasbg.fr](mailto:jps@japon.u-strasbg.fr)  
<http://jps.u-strasbg.fr/>

#### ● JSPS Bangkok Office

No. 1016/1, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl., Serm-Mit Tower,  
159 Sukhumvit Soi 21,  
Bangkok 10110, THAILAND  
Tel: +66-2-661-6533 Fax: +66-2-661-6535  
E-mail: [bkk02@jps-th.org](mailto:bkk02@jps-th.org)  
<http://www.jps-th.org/>

#### ● JSPS Beijing Office

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

#### ● JSPS Cairo Research Station

9 Al-Kamel Muhammad Street,  
Flat No. 4, Zamalek, Cairo, EGYPT  
Tel & Fax: +20-2-27363752  
E-mail: [webmaster@jpscairo.com](mailto:webmaster@jpscairo.com)  
<http://jpscairo.com/>

#### ● JSPS Nairobi Research Station

Plot No.30, Bernard Estate, Off James Gichuru Road,  
Maji Mazuri Road to El Molo Drive, Lavington, Nairobi, KENYA  
Tel: +254-20-4348000  
E-mail: [jps1@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:jps1@africaonline.co.ke)  
<http://www.jpsnairobi.org/>