

JSPS Quarterly

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



FEATURE: JSPS *Ikushi* Prize

TOPICS

● Award Ceremony Held for Third JSPS <i>Ikushi</i> Prize.....	2
● Global Research Council Holds 2 nd Annual Meeting.....	4
● JSPS President Attends G8-HORCs Meeting.....	4
● NIH-Tohoku University-JSPS Symposium Held in Sendai.....	4
● JSPS-NIH MoU Signing Ceremony Held.....	5
● Science in Japan Forum Held in Washington.....	5
● US-Japan Symposium Held for Women in Science and Technology.....	5
● San Francisco Office Holds Meetings for Japanese Researchers in the US.....	6
● JSPS London Sponsors York-Tohoku Research Symposium.....	6
● JSPS London Sponsors Symposium on Modern Japanese Art History.....	7
● France-Japan Joint Forum on "Frontiers in Innate Immunity" Held in Strasbourg.....	7
● JSPS Program Introductory Meeting at Corte.....	8
● Sweden-Japan Collaboration Symposium Held.....	8
● Joint Meeting Held between Young Academies of Sweden and Japan.....	8
● JSPS Program Briefing Held at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.....	9
● National Science, Technology and Innovation Week Held in Kenya.....	9
● JSPS Summer Program.....	10
● Introducing the Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association.....	12
● Science Dialogue.....	13
● Research and Life in Japan by a JSPS Fellow / Introducing Japan: Kurashiki.....	14

No. **45**
2013
Autumn

Award Ceremony Held for Third JSPS *Ikushi* Prize

Graced by the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, the third *Ikushi* Prize award ceremony was held by JSPS at the Japan Academy on 4 March. At the ceremony, 16 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 Japan, 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 third *Ikushi* Prize, in March 2012 a request to nominate candidates was sent out to 2,810 Japanese universities and academic societies, from which 124 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 26 December, the Committee members



FY 2012 awardees



Receiving the *Ikushi* certificate and medal

engaged in a vigorous discussion of the nominees, taking into account their current research activities and future potential, they finally came to the difficult decision on which 16 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 Ms. Akari Takayama, doctoral student at Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, 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, read by Senior Vice Minister Mr. Teru Fukui. The program concluded with a message of appreciation and future resolve on behalf of the awardees by Ms. Takayama.

After the ceremony, a tea party was held at the Japan Academy, in which Prince and Princess Akishino enjoyed pleasant conversation with Mr. Fukui, Dr. Sasaki, and the *Ikushi* laureates.

On Receiving the Third *Ikushi* Prize by Akari Takayama, Tohoku University

*I am extremely pleased and greatly honored to have been chosen to receive the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's *Ikushi* Prize, and for the recognition it accords my research endeavors. I wish to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress whose generous endowment established the foundation for this Prize. My hearty thanks also goes to my research advisers who not*

only provide the space for me to do my work but also warm guidance in advancing it, and to all my colleagues in the lab for their daily support and assistance. My expression of gratitude would not be complete without thanking my family and friends for the unrelenting support they give me as I pursue my research.

*I received the *Ikushi* Prize for an apparatus*

I constructed to measure the "spin" of electrons with the world's highest level of performance. Spin is defined as the intrinsic angular momentum of a subatomic particle. It is being widely applied in the development of spintronic devices. Currently, electronic technologies are used to control the electron charge in devices. Since, however, spin takes much less energy to control, it promises

substantial energy savings. Whereas spin-resolved photoemission is very useful as an experimental method in analyzing the state of electron spin, Mott detectors used to detect the spin had only low efficiency. In response to this problem, I set out to improve the performance of the Mott detector, and in the process succeeded in increasing its spin detection efficiency by more than 10 times the highest in the world. At start up, however, it generated an electrical discharge so large as to prohibit measurement, making the device shut down. By repeatedly cleaning and polishing its components, I was able to reduce the electrical discharge, and as a result achieved an apparatus with the highest world-level performance. I can vividly

recall the elation I felt when accomplishing this feat.

I am also researching a phenomenon called "Rashba effect," which, by using my apparatus, can be applied to spintronics. As a researcher, it gives me pride that the performance achieved by the apparatus I constructed enables a minute elucidation of what has been an opaque Rashba effect, giving it new potential for use in developing spintronic devices.

While I was doing my doctoral research, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, throwing the university's facilities into an upheaval. Just to restore the water and electricity took more than a month.

After cleaning up our lab, it took another half year to get it back into its previous operating condition. Through this experience, I realized for the first time what a blessing it is to be able to continue uninterrupted one's research work, and felt thankful for having been given a good research environment and the chance to contribute to society through the fruits of my efforts. I also felt a need to maintain a flexible perspective when doing research to advance science and technology.

I look forward to the recipients of this Ikushi Prize and other young researchers taking the initiative and assuming the vanguard in advancing science in ways that will achieve an ever-safer and more affluent society.

FY2012 JSPS Ikushi Prize Awardees

Humanities and Social Sciences		
Takayuki Hioki	Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo	"Study of Kabuki in Bakumatsu (Late Edo Period) and Meiji Era"
Yuho Hisayama	Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University	"History of the Concept of 'Geist' in the German-Speaking World from 1750 to 1850"
Maki Fukuda	Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University	"Legal History of Pardon in France"
Kentaro Yamamoto	Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University	"Elucidation of the Mechanism of Temporal Processing in the Brain Based on Hierarchical Processing of Motion Information"
Mathematics; Physical Sciences; Chemistry; Engineering Sciences		
Takatoshi Sakazaki	Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University	"Quest for the Unified Picture of Diurnal Variability in the Troposphere and Stratosphere"
Akari Takayama	Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University	"Ultrahigh-Resolution Spin-Resolved ARPES Study of Two-Dimensional Rashba Electron System"
Yuma Takida	Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka City University	"Development of Doubly-Resonant Terahertz-Wave Parametric Sources Using High-Efficiency Conversion Technique"
Ryudo Tsukizaki	School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"Plasma Diagnostics inside the Microwave Discharge Ion Engine and the Enhancement of Its Thrust Force"
Daigo Miyajima	School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	"Development of Novel Soft Materials Based on Hydrogen Bondings"
Biological Sciences; Agricultural Sciences; Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical Sciences		
Satoshiro Okuda	Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University	"Study of the Mechanism of Pollen Tube Guidance by Identification of Attractant Peptide Lures and Their Receptors"
Kota Katayama	Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya Institute of Technology	"FTIR Study of Primate Color Visual Pigments"
Hideaki Kato	School of Science, The University of Tokyo	"X-Ray Crystallographic Analysis of a Light-Gated Cation Channel, Channelrhodopsin"
Keiko Koda	Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Technology, Shinshu University	"Ecological Studies to Conserve the Endangered Lycaenid Butterflies Living in Satoyama"
Yuya Sato	Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo	"Elucidation of the Relation between Oxygen, Electron, and Life, through the Metabolism of an Evolutionarily-Ancient Bacterium"
Shugo Tohyama	Graduate School of Medicine, Keio University	"Distinct Metabolic Flow Enables Large-Scale Purification of Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Cardiomyocytes"
Akiyoshi Tominaga	The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University	"Investigation of the Molecular Bases of Advanced Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation Activity in Leguminous Plants and Rhizobium, and the Application to Crop"

Titles and affiliations current as of 1 May 2012

Global Research Council Holds 2nd Annual Meeting

On 28-29 May, the Global Research Council (GRC) held its second annual meeting, co-hosted by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). It was attended by representatives of approximately 70 science and research councils, including partner organizations, hailing from some 50 countries. JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai participated in the meeting as a member of GRC's governing board.

At the meeting, common principles that funding agencies should be cognizant of with regard to research integrity were endorsed in a "Statement of Principles for Research Integrity." With regard to open access to scientific papers, the options that funding agencies should work on were endorsed as an "Action Plan towards Open Access to Publications." With Dr. Anzai acting as the moderator, a discussion was advanced on GRC's organization and operation, the results being



Photo shoot of participants

adopted as GRC by-laws.

The third GRC annual meeting is scheduled to be held next May in Beijing.

International Policy Planning Division

JSPS President Attends G8-HORCs Meeting

On 29-30 May, a meeting was held of the Heads of Research Councils of the G8 Countries (G8-HORCs) in the wake of the second annual meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) in Berlin. Cosponsored by National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and



G8-HORCs members

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the G8-HORCs meeting was attended by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai.

Held once a year, G8-HORCs meetings bring together the heads of science-promotion organizations from the G8-member countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, the UK, and the US). They hold free discussions on areas of common interest, particularly with regard to global issues and S&T policy. As a special guest, Professor Glaucius Oliva, president of Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, was invited to attend this year's meeting.

The next G8-HORCs meeting is scheduled to be held next May in Beijing in parallel with the third GRC annual meeting.

International Policy Planning Division

NIH-Tohoku University-JSPS Symposium Held in Sendai

On 9-11 May, a symposium was held by Tohoku University and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in cooperation with JSPS's Washington Office. When the massive earthquake and tsunami struck Japan's northeastern region in March 2011, NIH initiated a special program to give medical researchers from Tohoku University an opportunity to do research stays at its institutes. Towards continuing and advancing that research, this symposium was themed "Cutting-Edge Biomedical Research; Second Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Present and Future."

In its opening session, remarks were offered by Tohoku University president Dr. Susumu Satomi, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine dean Dr. Noriaki Ohuchi, NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman, and JSPS Washington Office director Dr. Osamu Shimomura. After that, a special session was held on earthquake response and recovery. In it, the Tohoku Medical Megabank was introduced as a part of a national project to reconstruct the Tohoku area by developing a genome biobank. Then, JSPS International Program Department director Mr. Hisashi Kato offered remarks in which he described JSPS support for US-Japan cooperation focusing on medical research.

The following scientific sessions addressed themes centering on Oncology, Neurobiology and Regenerative Medicine, Genome Science, Protein Structure and Function, and Infectious Disease and Immunology. Each featured presentations by US and Japanese researchers and enjoyed active discussions. As a unique component of this symposium, a workshop was held on young researcher career development through overseas study. Poster sessions also gave the young researchers an opportunity to introduce their work. Some 109 displays were presented.



Dr. Shimomura giving opening remarks

During the symposium, lectures were delivered by nine researchers from NIH and 20 from Tohoku University to an audience of more than 400 participants. Many in attendance said that they'd like to see this symposium developed further and continue to be held in ensuing years.

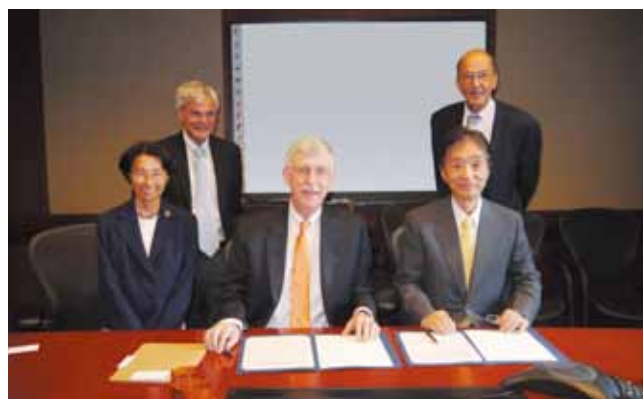
JSPS Washington Office

JSPS-NIH MoU Signing Ceremony Held

On 19 June, JSPS and the National Institutes of Health (NIH; headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland) held a ceremony to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in supporting the exchange of US and Japanese researchers in fields of medicine and to promote and strengthen joint research between them.

Stipulating the continuation of heretofore cooperation carried out under JSPS's Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad, Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers, and Invitation Fellowship Programs for Research in Japan, the new MoU adds fellowship support for Japanese postdocs doing research at NIH, while providing constant opportunity for American researchers to come to Japan and carry out joint research with Japanese colleagues.

JSPS Washington Office



At the signing ceremony

Science in Japan Forum Held in Washington



Dr. Negishi at center

Every year, the JSPS Washington Office holds its "Science in Japan" Forum for the purpose of promoting scientific exchange and joint research between the US and Japan through presentations on the latest research results in both countries.

This eighteenth forum in this series was held on 21 June at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC. Themed "Chemistry Saves the Earth—Toward Sustainable Society," it featured a keynote speech by 2010 Nobel laureate in chemistry Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi and presentations by top-class researchers from the US and Japan. A total of more than 100 people, including researchers from universities, research institutes, and government agencies and members of the press, engaged in spirited Q&A discussions with the lecturers. At the following reception, the researchers from the two countries strengthened their friendly and collegial ties, drawing the curtain on yet another very fruitful forum.

JSPS Washington Office

US-Japan Symposium Held for Women in Science and Technology

On 9-10 July, the JSPS Washington Office and the National Science Foundation (NSF) joined forces in holding their second U.S.-Japan "Connections Symposium for Women Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering and Mathematics." Abbreviated "Connections 2013 Symposium," this year's event was convened in Washington DC. Held in Japan in 2010, the first Connections Symposium gathered Japanese and American female researchers from an array of fields with an eye to elevating women into the ranks of leadership within their various scientific communities. At this second symposium, a video presentation was given by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, who had attended the first meeting in person.

Under the theme "Crossing Boundaries with Informatics—From Basic Science to Social Infrastructure," this symposium assembled female researchers from the US and Japan in fields mainly related to information science. The event featured two eminent keynote speakers: On the US side, Dr. Francine Berman, an Edward G. Hamilton Distinguished Professor in Computer Science at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and on the Japan side, Dr. Motoko Kotani. She is a professor and principal investigator in the Mathematical Institute of Tohoku University and director of the university's Advanced Institute for Materials Research. Communicating directly with each



Panel discussion

other throughout, the participants held a panel discussion, participated in a group session, and introduced their activities via a poster session. Thus sharing research, identifying common issues and exchanging views over the course of the event, the participants crafted networks that are expected to quicken their stride along career paths as female leaders in science and technology.

JSPS Washington Office

San Francisco Office Holds Meetings for Japanese Researchers in the US

One of JSPS's principal roles is to support the overseas programs of Japanese universities, including the activities of Japanese researchers studying or working in the US. In this vein, the JSPS San Francisco Office carries out two types of meetings: One is the holding of gatherings for Japanese JSPS fellows in the US, and the other is to bring together Japanese university faculty members staying in the US. Both are held for the purpose of promoting exchange and forming networks among the participants. A special feature of these events is their targeted design to meet the specific needs of the two different groups of participants.

Gatherings of JSPS Japanese Fellows



Self-introduction and research-presentation session

These gatherings are held for young Japanese researchers coming to the US under JSPS's fellowships for research abroad, postdoctoral and doctoral fellowships, and programs to promote the international mobility

of gifted young researchers. Each year, two gatherings are held at the office of JSPS San Francisco in Berkeley and one is held in Boston or other locations on the East Coast. For last year's East Coast meeting, the Consulate-General of Japan in Boston gave us the use of its facilities. Normally, from 20 to 40 researchers attend these gatherings.

At the gathering held in Berkeley this June, the participant introduced themselves and their research, fielding lively volleys of questions from the other members. They also exchanged information and views on research activities and living environments in the US. Participation was not limited to universities on the West Coast, but saw JSPS fellows coming from universities in such faraway places as New York, Florida and Missouri.

The objective of these gatherings is to build and expand networks among young Japanese researchers interning at universities in all regions of the US, and to promote the continued use of these networks

even after the participants return to Japan.

Meetings of Japanese University Faculty Members in the US

Held three times a year, these meetings are targeted at full-time Japanese university faculty (professors, associate/assistant professors, lecturers) on sabbaticals for short-term stays (six months to two years) at American universities. Using the JSPS San Francisco's office for the meetings,



Participants exchanging views

many of the participants come from the University of California's Berkeley, Davis and San Francisco campuses, Stanford, and other Bay Area universities. These gatherings are well received by the participants as they provide many of them an opportunity to meet for the first time—even from different labs on the same campus. The participants say that they find these meetings to be very beneficial as they enable exchange with researchers in other fields whom they would normally not encounter and a chance to create networks with each other. They are normally attended by 10 to 20 researchers.

At the meeting held in July, the participants also introduced themselves and their research. Drawing upon their experiences in the US and Japan, they engaged in a spirited exchange of views on how universities should respond to the globalization of higher education.

While one objective of these meetings is of course to build networks, another is to promote discussions among the participants, who have a common footing as position-holders in Japanese universities, on such subjects as the education and research environments in the US and Japan and the conditions of university faculty in the two countries—discussions that give lively expression to the participants' various experiences while sojourning in the US.

JSPS San Francisco Office

JSPS London Sponsors York-Tohoku Research Symposium

On 10-12 June, the second JSPS York-Tohoku Research Symposium was held, this time on the theme "Magnetic Materials and Spintronic Devices." Venued at University of York, this symposium was convened under the auspices of JSPS London Office's symposium scheme for Japanese researchers based in the UK. Held subsequent to the first June 2011 symposium, this event featured 33 speakers, 12 from Japan, and was



Poster session by European students

attended by some 89 researchers. The Japanese speakers hailed from the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), University of Tsukuba, and Tohoku University.

Addressed by Dr. Marcus Ormston, senior engineering manager, Seagate Technology in Northern Ireland, Prof. Koki Takanashi, Magnetic Materials Laboratory, Tohoku University, and other frontline UK and Japanese researchers, a number of specialized sessions were carried out over the course of the symposium. In addition, a poster session gave graduate students from Japan, the UK and other European countries an opportunity to display their studies. A place was also provided for a special session by JSPS London, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Institute of Physics Publishing (IOP Publishing) on funding mechanisms and collaborative possibilities between the UK and Japan.

On the last day of the symposium, the participants gave its organizer, York's Dr. Atsufumi Hirohata, a burst of rapturous applause for his efforts that made the event so successful all the way through to its closing curtain.

JSPS London Office

JSPS London Sponsors Symposium on Modern Japanese Art History

On 19-20 June, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London held an international Japanese modern art history symposium on “New Boundaries in Modern Japanese Art History: Extending Geographical, Temporal and Generic Paradigms.” Convened under the JSPS London Office’s symposium scheme for the UK JSPS Alumni Association, the event enjoyed the cooperation of The Japan Foundation and Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures as well as JSPS. With Dr. Eriko Tomizawa-Kay, a Japanese researcher at SOAS, as its organizer, and Dr. Timon Screech, professor in SOAS’s Department of History of Art and Archaeology and member of the alumni association, as its moderator, the symposium featured lectures by 11 researchers from Japan, the UK, the US, and Australia.

The purpose of the gathering was to consider ways of re-creating East Asian art history with a focus on the birth of Japanese modern art seen from such perspectives as paintings, woodblock prints, photographs and crafts in the Edo through Meiji and Taisho periods. The symposium attracted the attendance of over 130 researchers, students and members of the interested public, who engaged the

lecturers in spirited Q&A discussions that transcended nationality, age and specialty.

JSPS London Office



Symposium lecturers in front of the venue

France-Japan Joint Forum on “Frontiers in Innate Immunity” Held in Strasbourg

On 6-7 June, a France-Japan Joint Forum on “Frontiers in Innate Immunity” was held at the Institut le Bel, University of Strasbourg. Organized by JSPS and the University of Strasbourg, the forum was attended by 10 eminent researchers from Japan and France, including Prof. Jules Hoffmann, 2011 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine.

Coordinated by Prof. Chihiro Sasakawa (Nippon Institute for Biological Science, Chiba University) and Prof. Jean-Marc Reichhart (University of Strasbourg), the forum provided a platform for the participants to exchange ideas and information on recent studies of innate immunology, including innate immune response—the first line of defence in sustaining health and controlling disease.

Following keynote speeches by Professors Hoffmann and Sasakawa, presentations were delivered on such specialized topics as “mucosal immunity, inflammation and tolerance,” “TLR logistics in regulating autoimmunity,” “posttranscriptional control of the inflammasome,” and “new *in vivo* role of dendritic cells in innate immunity.” A lively discussion unfolded between the speakers and a floor of 188 attendees, who showed keen interest in each topic.

Another highlight of the forum was its roundtable with Prof. Hoffmann. The doctoral students and young researchers attending it asked him volleys of questions amidst a congenial atmosphere. They covered a span from R&D in the immunology field to Prof. Hoffmann’s own career and the technical content of his publications, to which he replied passionately. The roundtable went on for more than two hours, bespeaking the enthusiastic participation of all. Prof. Hoffmann expressed appreciation for this unique opportunity to engage in a spirited dialogue with such promising young scientists. At the event’s conclusion, Prof. Marie-Claire Lett (University of Strasbourg) offered a presentation which, inspiring the students, touched upon her research experiences in Japan as a JSPS postdoctoral fellow.

Strengthening scientific ties enjoyed between France and Japan, the forum offered its attendees an opportunity to discover the latest advances across a wide swath of the innate immunity field.



Roundtable discussion with Prof. Hoffmann



Speakers

* A video of the forum is available on: <http://www.canal2.tv/video.asp?idEvenement=695>

JSPS Strasbourg Office

JSPS Program Introductory Meeting at Corte

On 20 June, members of JSPS's Strasbourg Office visited the University of Corsica to hold a program introductory meeting. Welcomed by the university's vice president Prof. Thierry Antoine-Santoni, the staff described JSPS's various international programs, following which presentations were given by Dr. Jacques Fattaccioli, associate professor at École Normale Supérieure in Paris and member of the JSPS French Alumni Association's board, and by Dr. Jean-Baptiste Filippi, a researcher at Corsica. Having both done research stints at the University of Tokyo as JSPS postdoctoral fellows, they offered insightful comments of their lives in Japan, to which the audience responded with a spirited discussion.

The exchange continued with Prof. Antoine-Santoni explaining the university's international strategy, which places focus on the "Excellence Network of Island Territories (RETI)" and on an association of Mediterranean universities in France and Italy (PRES euroméditerranéen).

After the discussion, the attendees visited two of the university's outstanding research institutions: LISA, an interdisciplinary institution



Q&A with JSPS Strasbourg director

for research in the humanity and social sciences, and SPE (Science pour l'Environnement), which specializes in developing and utilizing local products.

JSPS Strasbourg Office

Sweden-Japan Collaboration Symposium Held



Dr. Ohtsu giving lecture

On 3-4 June, the JSPS Stockholm Office, Lund University and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) teamed up to hold a Sweden-Japan Collaboration Symposium titled "Exploring the Future of Light,

Matter, and Information on the Nanoscale." Giving presentations on the Japanese side were Dr. Motoichi Ohtsu, Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo, and 11 researchers from Japan's academic and corporate communities, while the Swedish side saw presentations from Lund's Prof. Anders Gustafsson, KTH's Prof. Lars Thylén, and 11 other frontline researchers. Held at Lund University, the symposium enjoyed the participation of some 50 students and researchers, who showered the lecturers with questions and engaged each other in animated discussions.

The symposium was also attended by Mr. Hideto Matsumoto, first secretary, Embassy of Japan in Sweden, who agreed with the participants that its theme warrants joint endeavor by the two countries. Consideration was given to establishing a program for supporting the continuation and advancement of research in this important area.

JSPS Stockholm Office

Joint Meeting Held between Young Academies of Sweden and Japan

On 12-13 June, the JSPS Stockholm Office supported the first ever meeting between the Young Academy of Sweden and the Young Academy of Japan, held on the premises of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. About ten members representing various fields participated from each academy. After introducing their organizations and activities, they held group discussions and delivered presentations, spurring active Q&A rounds on four themes: Career Tracks & Life and Lab (gender), Future of National Young Academies & International versus National Activities and Collaborations, Science and Technology Policies, and How to Work on Interdisciplinary projects.

This was the first attempt by the two countries to conduct a bilateral meeting of the Young Academies. It proved to be very successful in fostering the young researchers who will be future science standard-bearers, while giving them the chance to begin and continue accruing international exchange experience.

JSPS Stockholm Office



Participants from Young Academies

JSPS Program Briefing Held at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia

On 19 June, the JSPS Bangkok Office held a seminar to introduce JSPS programs at Gadjah Mada University (UGM). The meeting's convening owed to the passionate call for it by Dr. Irfan Dwidya Prijambada, who earned his master's and doctoral degrees in Japan, and the enthusiastic cooperation by UGM vice rector Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati, who announced the meeting to all the university's department heads, culminating in the participation of some 40 teachers and students. Not only JSPS but also the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was represented in the meeting. Mr. Taiji Wake, who is a JICA expert and higher education policy advisor to the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, described relevant JICA programs. From UGM, two members of the faculty who had participated in JSPS's bilateral programs talked about their experiences, while Associate Prof. Sachiko Takahi, Faculty of Education and Human Studies, Akita University, reported on her joint research at UGM.

As the seminar neared its close, the participants were given a chance to voice their impressions and offer suggestions. Among them were some researchers who said they had become motivated to apply for a JSPS bilateral exchange program—bespeaking the seminar's success in achieving its objective.

As JSPS's name recognition is not yet that high throughout Indonesia, the Bangkok Office considers it its mission to continue holding these briefings at the country's universities. We are reinvigorated in our belief that the seeds we plant will ultimately blossom into a garland of flowers across Indonesia.

JSPS Bangkok Office



Office staff with UGM participants

National Science, Technology and Innovation Week Held in Kenya

Over the 5-day period from 13-17 May, a nationwide science conference was held in Kenya under the title "Second National Science, Technology and Innovation Week." It was sponsored by the National Council for Science and Technology, which in June changed



At the exhibition

its name to the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. Cosponsored by the JSPS Nairobi Research Station, the conference provided a platform for presenting the latest results of research across a spectrum of fields. Looking to invigorate Kenya's various scientific societies, emphasis was placed on giving the next generation of young researchers, including graduate students, a rare opportunity to introduce their work.

Five sub-themes were addressed: Socialization of Science and Technology, Celebrating Culture with New Technology, Science Communication, Innovative Technology for Growth and Development, and Governance of Science, Technologies and Innovation. Under them, 37 papers were presented, 43 research results displayed, and 80 robotics and other electronic technologies exhibited. Coming from Japan, research presentations were delivered by Dr. Akihiko Saito, former president of Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University, and Ms. Mitsuru Toda, research officer of Nagasaki University. Remarks were also offered by Mr. Toshihisa Takata, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Kenya, and Mr. Yoichiro Yamada, Deputy Chief, Mission of Japan.

JSPS Nairobi Research Station

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 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/>.

JSPS Fellows Plaza

Attended by 113 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 11 June to 21 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 cultural 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



Participants gathered at orientation

back to Japan to do research at future junctures in their careers. On the day before the program ended, the participants reassembled in Tokyo 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.

Mr. Benoit Granier

(Graduate student from University of Lyon) at the University of Tokyo

His host: Prof. Akira Suehiro

As a PhD student, I am doing research on smart cities in Japan. Thanks to the JSPS Summer Program, I could spend two months at the University of Tokyo and meet many very interesting researchers who are also doing work on these issues. My host researcher, Prof. Akira Suehiro, introduced me to a group called Yokohama City Civil Servants who explained their project to me. I also went to Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City with Prof. Sukehiro Hosono, who is a specialist in smart cities. It was great to discover how these Japanese cities differ from those in Europe. For instance, many use fun schemes such as games and robots



Mr. Granier (right) in poster presentation session

to involve the population, while other issues such as health and aging are also tackled. Thanks a lot JSPS!

Ms. Michelle Montgomery

(Graduate student from University of Bristol) at Kyoto University

Her host: Prof. Fumiyuki Ozawa

The JSPS summer programme provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to broaden my research and establish academic collaborations. My host, Prof. Fumiyuki Ozawa, was kind enough to let me join his group without any previous collaboration. Its members were friendly, patient and as eager to learn from me as I was from them. In addition to hosting two welcome parties and numerous activities in my honour, the group also invited me on an overnight excursion where I was able to enjoy the delights of a traditional *ryokan* inn in splendid company. I also seized the opportunity to explore Japan and was mesmerised by the beauty, tradition and rich culture coexisting with the bright lights and hustle



Ms. Montgomery (third from left) with Prof. Ozawa and group

and bustle of big cities. I am tremendously grateful for the experiences the JSPS programme afforded me and plan to return as soon as possible.

Paris

Pre-Departure Meeting for Summer Program Held in Paris

On 27 May, a pre-departure meeting was held for the first time for young French researchers going to Japan to participate in the JSPS Summer Program. Venued at CNRS headquarters in Paris, the meeting offered an opportunity for the summer fellows to get acquainted with each other while receiving practical information about life in Japan.

From CNRS, Dr. Minh-Hà Pham-Delègue, director of the European Research and International Cooperation Office, welcomed the Japan-bound students, encouraging them to get their research off to a dynamic start through the unique opportunities that the Summer Program will provide them. She also emphasized the importance of French-Japanese cooperation and promised that CNRS will continue to work closely with JSPS in implementing all of its fellowship programs. Then, CNRS and JSPS introduced their organization's international programs that the young fellows will be able to take advantage of at

later stages of their evolving careers.

After brief introductions by each participant, Ms. Yola Gloaguen, l'Ecole pratique des hautes études in Paris, told about her unique 9-year stay in Kyoto and Tokyo, including part of her doctoral study at Waseda University under a short-term JSPS postdoctoral fellowship. Then, Dr. Salvatore Anzalone, University Pierre et Marie Curie, talked passionately about his research stay at Osaka University, where he worked with an energetic robotic research group led by Prof. Hiroshi

Ishiguro.

Though their motivations differed—some simply wanting to experience research and life in Japan while others were moved to participate in the program by the promptings of professors with links to Japanese colleagues—the young researchers listened attentively to the two “testimonies,” from which they garnered added enthusiasm for their upcoming trip to Japan and the experiences it promises to unfold.



Pre-departure meeting



Dr. Anzalone (left), Ms. Gloaguen

Bonn

Pre-Orientation Held for German Summer Program Participants

On 8 May, the JSPS Bonn Office held a pre-orientation for participants of JSPS's Summer Program. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) joined JSPS in carrying out the meeting. Venued at the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bonn, the meeting was attended by 16 of the 19 participants going from Germany to the Summer Program in Japan. Among them were young researchers from different affiliated universities, fields of specialization, and Japanese host institutions.

The orientation kicked off with remarks by Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, followed by Dr. Ursula Toyka, head of DAAD's Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania Section, who introduced DAAD's programs. A briefing on the Summer Program and the description of the various JSPS fellowships that the participants will be eligible for when seeking future collaboration with Japanese colleagues were offered by JSPS staff.

The second half of the orientation started off with two past Summer Program fellows, Mr. Georg Schendzielorz and Ms. Nina Holzschneider, telling about their experiences. Mr. Schendzielorz told about an interesting experience he had while in Japan: Having visited the University of the Ryukyus where Ms. Holzschneider was doing her research, he told about the stark contrast between it in an island region that includes Okinawa and his host university

in metropolitan Tokyo. Finally, a member of the German JSPS Club's executive board, introduced the alumni association and its activities to the students.

The orientation was followed by a dinner party that gave everybody a good chance to get to know each other, exchange views and information, and create collegial ties.



Japan-bound young researchers

Introducing JSPS Alumni Associations



Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association

The Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association (EA JSPS Alumni) was launched on 30 July 2007 in a ceremony at the JSPS Nairobi Research Station. The association serves as an umbrella organization for Eastern African JSPS program beneficiaries.

Membership

Currently, the association comprises a little over 50 members, hailing from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. We invite all former fellows of JSPS postdoctoral and invitational fellowships and other JSPS programs residing in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi) to join our alumni association.

Objective

The main objective of the association is twofold:

(1) To promote scientific exchange and research collaboration between Japan and Eastern African countries in all fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. (2) To build a network and encourage scientific cooperation among the association's members.

In pursuit of these objectives, the members mentor and encourage scientists within the region to apply for JSPS fellowships, providing them with useful information on these and other JSPS programs to which Eastern African researchers are eligible to apply.

Activities

Among its activities, our association holds scientific symposiums, workshops and seminars, along with briefings on JSPS's international programs. In these briefings, alumni members talk about their experiences as postdocs and other program fellows in Japan. Japan is well known in Africa for its automobile manufacturing, but young African scholars do not know much about Japanese culture or daily life in Japan. While describing these aspects of Japan, the members always place emphasis on the lab culture in the Japanese universities or research institutions that hosted them, the way they organize research projects, their flow of research from doing experiments to publishing papers, and how communication is carried out among the researchers both Japanese and lab mates from other countries.



First general assembly in 2011

Based on the research they published while in Japan, most of the alumni members hold positions as researchers, lecturers or professors in their countries main universities, research institutions, or science-promotion organizations; therefore, they enable the association to function as a hub bridging the Eastern African region.

In November 2011, the association held its first general assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. At it, executive committee members were selected from each member country. Since then, the association has held executive committee meetings and scientific workshops in each country, which we call "focal points."

The following is a list of symposiums and workshops held by the association during the period from FY 2011 to 2013.

- JSPS Publicity Seminar (11 August 2011, Co-organized by South Eastern University College, Kitui, KENYA)
- The 1st Eastern Africa JSPS Alumni Association General Assembly (3 November 2011, at Embassy of Japan, Nairobi, KENYA)
- Workshop on Crop Science & JSPS Briefing (22 January 2013, Co-organized by NaCRRI, Namulonge, Kampala, UGANDA)
- Workshop on Science and Technology & JSPS Briefing (15 March 2013, Co-organized by Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA)
- Workshop on Science and Technology & JSPS Briefing (3 July 2013, Co-organized by University of Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA)

During the period from FY 2009 to 2013, the association also sent seven of its members to Japan through JSPS's revisitaton Bridge Program.

Foresight

Though our membership is still rather small, we are working hard to invigorate the association's activities and strengthen communication among its members, while supporting activities at the focal points as a component of our vitalization strategy. To better take on these challenges, we are seeking to expand our membership rolls by finding new members among former JSPS fellows who have not yet joined our group and inviting current JSPS fellows to join the association upon their return home. We are looking to achieve the kind of critical mass that will allow us to infuse greater energy into the alumni program, particularly at each focal point.

Since the 1960s, Japanese researchers have conducted African studies in various fields of research including ecology, entomology, geology, paleontology, primatology, agriculture, tropical medicine, history, literature, linguistics, education, political economy, sociology, and social anthropology. The association is working to serve as a hub for promoting further international scientific collaborations between Japanese and Eastern African researchers.

Website URL

http://www.jspsnairobi.org/en/info_en/430.html



The following fellows participated in JSPS's Science Dialogue Program during the period from April through June 2013. For details about the program, please see our website: <http://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-plaza/e-sdialogue/>.

Overseas Fellowship Division

Akita Prefectural Odate Homei High School

Date: 19 June

Dr. Feng LUO (China)

Host institution: Hokkaido University
Title: "Fascinating Polymer Materials"

Dr. Ganiyu O. OYETIBO (Nigeria)

Host institution: Tohoku Gakuin University
Title: "Microorganisms: More of a Friend than Enemy to Humans"

Dr. Hasitha M. WAIDYASOORIYA (Sri Lanka)

Host institution: Tohoku University
Title: "Heterogeneous Computing for Future Supercomputers"

Dr. Euis T. YUNINGSIH (Indonesia)

Host institution: Hokkaido University
Title: "Precious and Base Metal Epithermal Deposits of Western Java, Indonesia and Southwestern Hokkaido, Japan"

Ibaraki Prefectural Namiki Secondary School/Namiki High School

Date: 15 May

Dr. Alexandre J. Y. FIORI (France)

Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science
Title: "Lifestyle in French High Schools and Diamond Research in Japan"



Dr. Weena Jade S. GERA (Philippines)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "Resilient People and Societies"



Dr. Ngeta KABIRI (Kenya)

Host institution: Tokyo Institute of Technology
Title: "Wildlife Conservation in Africa"

Dr. Mee SONU (Korea)

Host institution: Sophia University
Title: "Human Information Processing of Spoken Language and Second Language Learning"

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

Date: 15 June

Dr. Alexander J. O'CONNOR (USA)

Host institution: Hitotsubashi University
Title: "An Introduction into Social, Personality, Cultural, and Health Psychology"



Date: 29 June

Dr. Daniel D. FRIEDRICH (Germany)

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



Fukui Prefectural Fujishima Senior High School

Date: 23 May

Dr. Gael P. R. DUR (France)

Host institution: The University of Shiga Prefecture
Title: "The Amazing World of Copepod"



Wakasa Senior High School

Date: 21 June

Dr. Tiphaine V. BERSOT (France)

Host institution: Doshisha University
Title: "Exciting Research on Excitatory Neurotransmission in Brain"

Yamanashi Prefectural Hikawa High School

Date: 6 June

Dr. Davin H.E. SETIAMARGA (Indonesia)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "My Personal Quest to Understand the Grand Story of Life through Non-Applied, Basic Science Research"

Yamanashi Prefectural Tsuru High School

Date: 24 May

Dr. Thomas SPALLEK (Germany)

Host institution: RIKEN
Title: "Transcriptional Dissection of the Parasitic Plant *Striga asiatica* in Rice"

Date: 7 June

Dr. Fabian H. FURRER (Switzerland)

Host institution: The University of Tokyo
Title: "The Power of Quantum Information Theory"

Shizuoka Kita High School (Shizuoka)

Date: 13 June

Dr. Andrey TAYDUGANOV (Russia)

Host institution: Osaka University
Title: "The Particle Adventure"

Shizuoka Prefectural Numazu Higashi Senior High School

Date: 15 June

Dr. Robert BEDINGTON (UK)

Host institution: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
Title: "Analyser Instruments for Space Plasmas"

Akashi National College of Technology (Hyogo)

Date: 24 June

Dr. Michele DALL'ARNO (Italy)

Host institution: Nagoya University
Title: "Doing Research in Quantum Physics"



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

Date: 1 June

Dr. Takeshi MATSUYAMA HOYOS (Colombia)

Host institution: Kyoto University
Title: "Molecular Mechanism of Visual and Non-visual Functions"

Seishin Girls' Senior High School (Okayama)

Date: 11 June

Dr. Rok KEBER (Slovenia)

Host institution: Osaka University
Title: "How Do Scientists Study the Immune System?"

Hailing from the Philippines, Dr. Ana Eusebio-Cope has been conducting research with her host researcher, Dr. Nobuhiro Suzuki, at the Institute of Plant Science and Resources of Okayama University under a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship since September 2011. After obtaining her master's degree from the University of the Philippines and working as an assistant scientist at the world-renowned International Rice Research Institute, she was selected for a Japanese government scholarship to pursue her doctorate and advance her research at Okayama University.

- What are you currently researching under the JSPS fellowship?

Currently, I am working on viruses infecting fungi (mycovirus) focusing on virus genome rearrangement induced by the interplay between a mutated viral segment and mutant fungal hosts.

- How did you become interested in your research field?

My research project for my bachelor's degree was on plant virology but mostly on basic subjects like transmission, characterization and detection of viruses using antibody-based procedures. Right now, my research combines molecular virology and mycology. No matter how diverse and complicated the field of fungal virology, it still involves viruses as the main player which make it more challenging. In addition, fungi as another component of the system captivated my enthusiasm due to their life cycles and the various macro-/microscopic structures (spores, conidiophores, fruiting bodies, mycelia, etc.) they produce. All these things inspired me more to study the interaction between viruses and fungi.

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

A friend of mine referred me to Prof. Nobuhiro Suzuki. At that time, he was recruiting for graduate students to work in his project. That's when I started to correspond with him, and he said he would accept me in his lab if I qualified for a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship, which luckily I did.

- Why did you choose Japan to pursue your research?

Japan is famous for its superior technology and its people are known to be hard working. For me, these two factors were good indicators assuring me that if I pursued my research career in Japan I'd be able to work closely with highly competitive, top sci-

entists of superb quality. I have not regretted my decision. This is now my ninth year of working in the same lab.

- What is your impression of your host institution?

The Institute of Plant Science and Resources is a medium-sized institute where people closely interact during meetings and other research-oriented endeavors. The members of the institute are actively engaged in holding social activities in which people like me from other countries can participate. On the research side, the institute is equipped with modern, cutting-edge facilities, which are shared equally by members who want to use them. The institute's environment is conducive to excellent research, and the faculty and staff create a friendly and harmonious atmosphere for us overseas researchers.

- How about the colleagues in your laboratory?

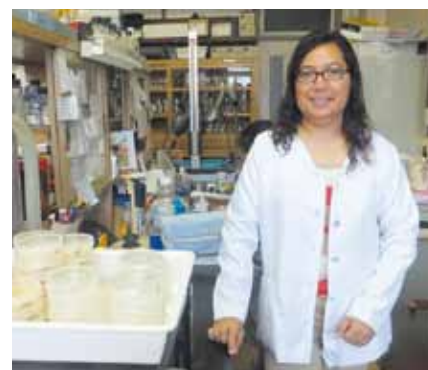
Though the members of the Group of Plant-Microbe Interaction come from diverse cultural backgrounds, we mingle quite well and help each other achieve our research goals. We not only do science in the lab but on special occasions the group goes out to have some fun like partying, hiking, or flower viewing (*hanami*).

- Generally speaking, what is your impression of Japan's research environment? Is there any difference between Philippines and Japan?

I was working at an international research institution in the Philippines before coming here, so I was already aware of the value of quality work. However, after coming to Japan, I developed a fondness for working even harder and became output-oriented like the other researchers in our lab. I think Japanese researchers are highly competitive; this is primarily due to their "Japanese-way of working," which luckily I have witnessed firsthand during my stay. To me, it's awesome!

- What have your research achievements been so far?

As mentioned, I am doing research on genome rearrangement. Despite being a common occurrence in members of the family *Reoviridae* to which *Mycovirus 1* (virus species which I am studying) belongs, its exact mechanism is still largely unknown. In my research, I am trying to understand the link between this phenomenon and the RNA silencing pathway. So far, I've been able to



Dr. Ana Eusebio-Cope

Research Assistant, Institute of Plant Science and Resources, Okayama University

Ph.D. (Fungal Virology), Okayama University, Japan, 2010

M.Sc. (Mycology), Okayama University, Japan, 2007

M.Sc. (Plant Disease Resistance), University of the Philippines, 1998

B.Sc. (Plant Pathology), University of the Philippines, 1992

establish differences in the biogenesis of rearranged segments between two RNA-silenced defective fungal strains of *Cryphonectria parasitica* infected with a mutant virus. The transcription levels of the specific genes in those fungal hosts have given me a possible lead to understanding the frequency and rate at which genome rearrangement occurs in those hosts.

- That sounds painstaking. What do you do outside the lab?

I spend time with my husband dining out, shopping, meeting friends, and going to church. The only common time we share is on Sunday afternoons, so we don't miss a chance to get out of the house.

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

Japanese people live a busy life while paying respect and showing appreciation to established norms and culture. They regard culture and customs as their way of life, which is something that never ceases to amaze me. For instance, they find time to celebrate and enjoy traditional events and even wear traditional clothes like "kimono" during festivals. In the cherry blossom season, they go to do *hanami* with family members or friends. Gathering under sakura trees, they savor the flowers while enjoying the time to eat, drink and chat together.

About life in Japan in general, "convenience," which is almost everywhere (including transportation, telecommunication, bank service, shops), is the number one thing that any foreigner will miss when leaving this country.

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

To be honest I thought that the language would be a great barrier and that it would make it difficult for me to live in Japan. But no, my stay here has really changed that perception, as I haven't experienced much difficulty.

To the contrary, I've been helped a lot by the Japanese people.

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

If possible, I prefer to continue my line of research here in Japan or somewhere else

that fits my credentials. I hope to work in a research institution that advances high-end quality science.

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

To anyone who wants to come to Japan to do research, my advice would be "by all means do so"! It will be a lifetime experience, one in which you may be amazed as you work alongside Japanese colleagues who so diligently go about advancing cutting-edge research in this part of the world with all its interesting customs and culture.

Dr. Cope's cheerful and pleasant personality made our interview with her most enjoyable. She showed us around her institution, where we saw researchers working from all over the world, much state-of-the-art research equipment, and lush agricultural fields outside the building.

Over the nine years that Dr. Cope has worked with Prof. Suzuki, she has accrued the admiration and trust of the other faculty members. With her tenure as a JSPS fellow ending in September, we look forward to her further research endeavors contributing to crop improvement in not only the Philippines but also where urgently needed in other countries around the world.

Introducing Japan: Kurashiki

Located in Okayama Prefecture, Kurashiki is a city that blends traditional with modern ways of living. It is the prefecture's repository of not only traditional architecture and art but also earlier periods of western elements. Most representative of this merger is the city's Bikan Area, through which the Kurashiki River runs. Its white-walled storehouses, many retrofitted into shops and galleries, line the riverbanks and stone-paved streets—highlighting for the visitor the city's older days as a center for merchants and traders who moved their wares up and down the river by boat. River rides are still a local attraction. Among the city's several museums and historical houses, I would first of all recommend the Ohara Museum of Art, which features a vast collection of western oil paintings, modern and folk Japanese artworks, and oriental antiques. The street

along the way to Bikan is adorned with many souvenir and other sundry shops. One of my favorites is Cafe Mugi, which serves organically produced breads, fruits and beverages. I especially like its delicious sandwiches and home-brewed coffee, enjoyed in the ambience of the shop's artistry.

One aspect of modern living in the city is a landscape spotted with shopping malls. In just the vicinity of the train station, you can find three malls named Ario, Mitsui Outlet Park, and Tenmaya. The people of Kurashiki are fond of vogue trends in fashion and food. For example, the food court in the Ario Mall offers a wide range of cuisines from Japanese, Korean and Chinese, to Italian.

Another salient feature of Kurashiki is its research environment, at the heart of which is our very own Institute of Plant Science and Resources (IPSR), attached to Okayama University. Its presence contributes to Kurashiki's modern and somewhat cosmopolitan atmosphere, with students and researchers gathering at the Institute

from countries around the world. To anybody interested in pursuing scientific research in Japan, our institute is a place to consider, as it provides equal opportunity to all, not to mention such a wonderful setting for carrying out your studies or research activities.



Bikan Area



River ride



Cafe Mugi





Cover photo:

“Nashi” pears, which are sweet, juicy and round like an apple, are served peeled and sliced from the end of summer throughout the fall season in Japan. As such, *nashi* are symbolic of Japanese autumn.

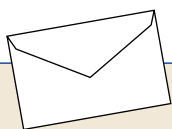
About JSPS

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
Fax: +81-3-3263-1854

For further information on JSPS's organization and programs, please visit our website [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
<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
<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
<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
<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: jps-sto@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
<http://jps.u-strasbg.fr/>

● JSPS Bangkok Office

No. 1016/1, 10th 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
<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
<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
<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
<http://www.jpsnairobi.org/>