



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

San Francisco Volume XXVI Issue June 2012



Director Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2012.

JSPS San Francisco has stimulated academic exchange and cooperation programs over not only the West Coast, but the whole of the United States as well as Canada since its establishment in April 2003.

With the intent of creating new scientific exchange between Japan and North America, JSPS SF has given special focus to planning and holding symposia with universities in the U.S. and Canada and introducing JSPS Fellowship Programs to invite researchers to Japanese Universities.

JSPS SF has also concentrated all its strength in supporting the activities of Japanese universities in North America and supporting the activities of Japanese university branch offices in the U.S. by creating a network amongst Japanese postdoctoral fellows, administrative officers, and faculty of Japanese universities studying in the U.S.

As for holding symposia, JSPS SF will co-organize two joint-symposiums this fiscal year: "Japanese Imperial Maps as Sources for East Asian History: A Symposium on the History and Future of the Gaihozu" with the Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University in October 2011 and "Japan's Information Technology Challenge: Government Policies and Market Dynamics in the Digital Age" with the Center for Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley in February 2012.

Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. Ten Japanese universities have opened their branch offices in the San Francisco Bay Area to stimulate academic exchange between Japan and the U.S. The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) was organized in August of 2006 to create more active academic exchange by collaborating with individual universities. JSPS San Francisco serves the administrative function of JUNBA and is in the process of organizing the sixth JUNBA Summit, called "JUNBA 2012", which will be held in the SF Bay Area in January 2012.

JSPS San Francisco strives to promote even further international scientific exchange between Japan and North America across a wide spectrum of research fields. In this endeavor, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and support.



Inside this issue:

Director Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2012.	1
The Office Staff Switch: Welcome Mr. Iwasawa, Mr. Kurita Ms. Motooka	2
Events of Spring 2012 Symposium on Religion in the Public Sphere Held at University of Southern California The 8th Meeting For University Administration Officers in the U.S	3
Bay Area & Japan Related News : The "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2012" "Tohoku university" "University of Tokushima" "Tokyo Institute of Technology" "Kyushu University" "Kumamoto University"	4-9



2001 Addison Street, Suite 260
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

Phone: 50-665-1890
Fax: 510-665-1891
Questions or Feedback?
Email: jspssf@jpspsusa-sf.org

THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

JSPS San Francisco Welcomes Three New Members

Daisuke Iwasawa and Koji Kurita, Program Coordinators of JSPS

Daisuke Iwasawa, joined our office as Program Coordinator and is in charge of administrative affairs for the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) along with coordinating gatherings for Japanese researchers and administrative staff of Japanese universities in the U.S. Last year he worked at JSPS headquarters in the International Program Department where he coordinated multilateral international joint research programs in cooperation with overseas science-promotion organizations. Prior to that, he had been working for the general affairs division at Tokyo Gakugei University, where he was engaged in university evaluation. He is interested in researching how U.S. universities are planning their campuses and what sorts of facilities are available for international students. During his stay in San Francisco, he also wishes to improve English skills, learn about American life and culture, and go sight-seeing inside and outside of the U.S., especially to natural and historical heritage sites and many kinds of, in some cases funny or peculiar, museums.

Koji Kurita, joined our office as Program Coordinator and is in charge of the accounting affairs, managing the JSPS SF website and editing the newsletter. He is also in charge of coordinating gatherings for faculty and administrative staff of Japanese universities which have overseas offices located throughout the United States. Last year he worked at JSPS headquarters in the Overseas Fellowship Division where he conducted fellowship programs to promote international cooperation and mutual understanding through scientific research. Prior to that, he had been working for the academic affairs division at Kyushu University, where he was engaged in academic support for students. He is interested in the support system for foreign students at U.S. universities, especially for the first-year students. During his stay in San Francisco, he wants to improve his English skills, and would like to travel to many places in the U.S. He would also like to attend as many live sports events as possible, especially baseball and basketball.



Koji Kurita Daisuke Iwasawa

Yoshiko Motooka, an Advisor from MEXT



Yoshiko Motooka

Yoshiko Motooka came as an adviser of JSPS San Francisco from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) at the beginning of April 2012, and will stay for 1 year and 3 months. She supports the operation of our office. She worked at MEXT for 5 years prior to working for JSPS. She was in charge of promoting competitive sports and gender equality learning, while also supporting education in the home. Her last position was the unit chief at the Office for Science Policy Planning, Research Promotion Bureau, where her main job was secretariat for a division of the Council for Science and Technology.

She is very interested in the educational and research system of America, especially in higher education and research activities of universities. This is the first time for her to live and work in a foreign country. So now her greatest concern is to improve her English. She hopes to visit as many universities and educational/research facilities as possible and talk with specialists to find out their strong points and problems that might help improve the Japanese system. And, of course, she is going to enjoy life in California with all of its delicious wine and food, friendly people and wonderful national parks!

EVENTS OF SPRING 2012

Symposium on Religion in the Public Sphere Held at University of Southern California

On April 27th and 28th, a symposium titled “Religion in the Public Sphere: Japan and the World” was held at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. It was sponsored by USC’s Center for Japanese Religions and Culture (CJRC), and JSPS, commemorating the inauguration of CJRC and the 80th anniversary of the establishment of JSPS.

The first day featured a film screening of “Abraxas”. The film tells the story of a former rock musician turned Buddhist monk who faces challenges on a journey to find himself, and plays a live show to overcome deep depression, past loss and small-town resistance.

On the second day, four presentations were given by the Japan-based speakers with U.S.-based academic theorists as the respondents, focusing on the role of religion in the state formation, in consumer culture, in public education, and in moments of crisis such as in post 3/11 disaster relief efforts. Interactive discussions on these topics offered new insight into how religion continues to make its mark on public discourse in Japan today, and to further our understanding of the significance of religion in an increasingly globalized world.



The 8th Meeting for University Administration Officers in the U.S

JSPS San Francisco office held the 8th meeting for university administration officers in the U.S. on May 31st.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network between administration officers from Japanese universities. Participants at this gathering were from The University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, The University of Electro-Communications, Tokyo Gakugei University, Tokyo University of Science, University of Tsukuba, Gifu University, Nagoya University, Kyoto University, Tottori University, Hiroshima University, Tokushima University, Kochi University, Kyushu University, Kumamoto University and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Some of the participants have been staying in the U.S. through LEAP (Long-term Educational Administrators Program for International Exchange).

The meeting started with opening remarks from Deputy Director Toko Ueta, JSPS San Francisco. In the meeting, participants briefly introduced themselves, and talked about their current work, activities and also about their future prospects. We exchanged information with each other and created networks which will be beneficial to our work as individuals in the higher education profession. The next meeting will be held in October.



The meeting was held at the same time as the 2012 NAFSA conference.

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2012" was held on May 9th



President of JUNBA, Masato Matsuo delivered a lecture titled "Food Diversity and Long-term Sustainability: Lessons from Jomon Archaeology". Through her engaging lecture, she introduced the results of surveys and research about Jomon Archaeology and emphasized the importance of academic exchange between Japan and America in the social science field. After the lecture, a lively question-and-answer session was held. A reception followed the meeting where the participants were able to exchange information and make new networks with each other.

On May 9th, JUNBA held its 6th general assembly meeting at Hakone gardens. The purpose of this annual meeting is to broadly report on JUNBA's affairs over the course of an entire year. It brought together 24 participants. The meeting started with remarks from JUNBA president Mr. Matsuo. He also reported on JUNBA's affairs of FY2011 and presented a plan for FY2012.

In the second half of the meeting, Ms. Junko HABU, Professor of the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley



Lecture by Prof. Junko Habu



JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area) comprises a network of Japanese universities with overseas offices in the San Francisco Bay Area. The mission of JUNBA is to contribute to the betterment of education, research and business creation both in Japan and the U.S. through a support of internationalization activities, personnel training of Japanese universities and a stimulation of IAG Collaborations between Japan and the U.S. JUNBA Website: <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/junba/>

Announcement of July 20

The 3rd meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S

JSPS San Francisco office held the 3rd meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S. on July 20.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide Japanese researchers in the U.S. with a good opportunity to share useful information, promote the exchange of research, not only in common research fields but in different research field, and support network-building among these researchers. We will hold the next meeting in Berkeley, CA. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers participation.

DATE: July 20 (Fri), 2012 16:30PM - 20:00PM

VENUE: JSPS San Francisco 2001 Addison street, suite260, Berkeley, CA 94704

ELIGIBILITY: Japanese Researchers in U.S who hold a faculty position at Japanese University

See the website for full schedule and RSVP details: <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/news/?p=833>

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



Tohoku University

Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

JSPS core-to-core program

Establishing an International Collaboration Platform for Strangeness Nuclear Physics by Electron Beams

Based on international collaboration, Tohoku University has been a leader in hypernuclear spectroscopy with electron beams for the past decade at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab) in Newport News, VA.

A hypernucleus contains a strange quark in addition to normal up/down quarks. Study of this "strange" system enables us to investigate deep inside the nucleus and extend our knowledge about the baryon force.

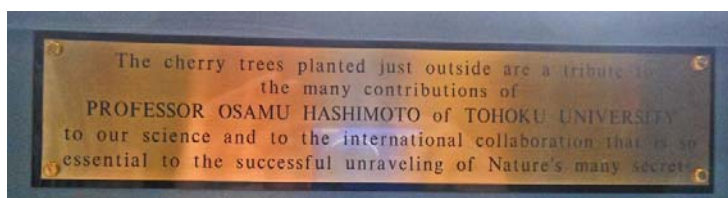
To push this program at JLab, two major magnetic spectrometers were constructed in Japan and exported there.

On May 9th and 10th, 2012, the 7th JSPS core-to-core seminar "Study of Lambda Hypernuclei with Electron Beams" was held at JLab to discuss the current status of the program and future prospects of hypernuclear study with electron beams.

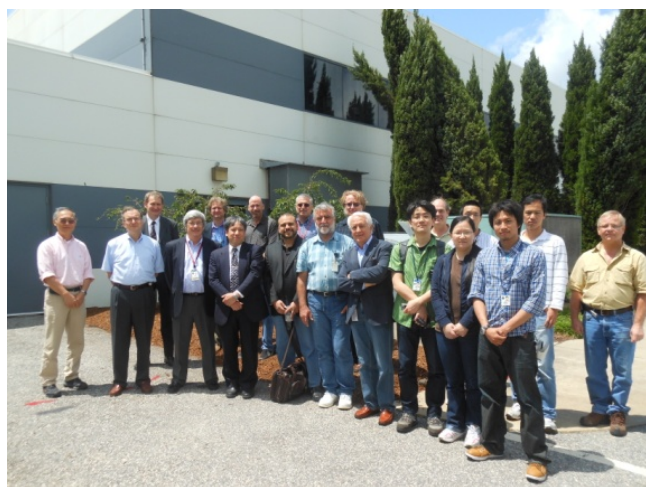
During the seminar, two tribute talks were given by S.N. Nakamura (Tohoku Univ.) and L. Tang (Hampton Univ.) to the ex-coordinator of our JSPS core-to-core program, the late Prof. Osamu Hashimoto, who passed away on February 3rd, 2012.

A memorial cherry planting ceremony took place on this occasion by the collaborators including the director of Jefferson Lab, Prof. H. Montgomery.

Gathered collaborators thanked Prof. Osamu Hashimoto for his years of contribution to the program and reaffirmed their determination to extend hypernuclear study at JLab based on this international collaboration.



A plaque displayed at the JLab Hall-C counting room



Memorial cherry tree plant ceremony

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



The University of Tokushima

University of Tokushima Silicon Valley Branch-based activities

The University of Tokushima established the University of Tokushima Silicon Valley Branch (the UT Silicon Valley Branch) in April of last year in cooperation with B-Bridge International, Inc. in order to actively promote industry-academic collaboration in the U.S. Many faculty and staff members of our university frequently visit the branch office to Japan and develop a network in the San Francisco Bay Area. We would like to introduce the recent activities of the UT Silicon Valley Branch.

From February 27 to March 2, 2012, so as to have access to information on technology transfer and international education programs, a group from Tokushima University made a visit to enterprises and branch offices of Japanese universities in the Bay Area.

Our first mission was to learn about activities for technology transfer in America. During the first half of our trip, after receiving helpful guidance from B-Bridge staff, we visited local businesses and had interviews with many entrepreneurs to introduce the transfer of two technologies from our university; “iPlaque™: Ultrasonic Characterization of Carotid Artery Plaques (PCT/JP2011/052459)” and “Automatic radioactivity measurement system for prostate brachytherapy (PCT/JP2010/006990)”. In addition, we could perceive renewed focus on a marketing research in the world.

During the last half of our trip, we visited branch offices of Japanese universities in the Bay Area. We had a great opportunity to introduce an up-and-coming student and a faculty member of our university to staff of Japanese universities in the Bay Area. When we met with staff of JSPS and JUNBA, we learned a lot about their dedication to internationalization of Japanese students and universities. We were particularly impressed with the words, “For the sake of the students, it is better for a department promoting industry-academia collaboration to be engaged in the education of the university.” We, as members of a department for industry-academia collaboration, recognized the significance of assisting the global development of students at our university.

A brief schedule of our visit and meeting was as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 27 | Meeting with B-Bridge staff about our university technology
Meeting to get advice from Entrepreneurs |
| Feb. 28 | Visit Businesses for Technology Transfer
Visit to Plug and Play Tech Center |
| Feb. 29 | Visit to Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco
Visit to JETRO San Francisco
Visit to Fukuoka Institute of Technology California Office
Take part in an informal get-together with the Board of JUNBA |
| Mar. 1 | Visit to Kagoshima University North American Center
Visit to Kyushu University California Office Inc.
Visit to JETRO San Jose |
| Mar. 2 | Visit to Osaka University San Francisco Center for Education and Research
Meeting with Keizai Society Staff |

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

In April 2012, we also started a pilot-project of an overseas study program via a remote class in cooperation with Kago-shima University North American Center.

We are really fortunate to be able to meet with lots of remarkable people whenever we visit the Bay Area so that then we can return renewed with motivation.

We look forward to working with you in the near future and your continued support would be greatly appreciated.



東京工業大学
Tokyo Institute of Technology

The Environmental Energy Innovation Building Completed

In February 2012, a new building was completed at Tokyo Institute of Technology's Ookayama campus. This innovative building has garnered the attention not only of the neighbors, but also of the media and of scientists around the world.

The Environmental Energy Innovation Building will house cutting-edge research laboratories for environmental energy technologies. This seven-story building has 4,570 solar panels optimally located on its roof and three sides and utilizes energy systems that not only reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% or more, but also provide sufficient electricity to cover the building's own consumption. Energy conservation is achieved through highly efficient equipment and power is generated via an envelope of dense solar panels covering the building and a highly-efficient fuel cell system in a hybrid distributed power generation system of renewable and fossil energy.

The Environmental Energy Innovation Building also incorporates a seismic response-controlling structure capable of withstanding large earthquakes. This "basket-frame" of a structure braces the building's perimeter zones and dissipates an earthquake's energy. The architecture harmoniously integrates these advanced functional aspects with its surrounding urban space.

For further information see:

http://www.titech.ac.jp/english/news-topics/detail_2844.html?id=news-topics



BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



Kyushu University
 International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research
 (I²CNER)

Satellite Kick-off Symposium took place (2012.3.6-7)

I²CNER held the first Satellite Symposium March 6th through the 7th on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The events were hosted at a central location on the Illinois Campus, the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, one of the newest and most prestigious buildings in the entire university. The aim of these events was to celebrate the establishment of the Illinois Satellite Institute, and to formally kick-off the collaborative research projects between I²CNER’s Kyushu University and Satellite PIs.



Alice Campbell Alumni Center

On March 6th, the day officially began with opening remarks from Setsuo Arikawa, President of Kyushu University, Toshio Kuroki, Program Director from the World Premier International Research Center Initiative(WPI), Richard Wheeler, the Provost of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ilesanmi Adesida, the Dean of the Illinois College of Engineering, and Petros Sofronis, the Director of I²CNER. They recounted the extensive effort that went into forging this collaboration between Kyushu University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and outlined the organizing principles and research mission of the Institute. Toshio Kuroki PD expounded on a global perspective of I²CNER by explaining the mission of WPI and its plans for the program’s support and growth. Around 100 people, including international researchers, participated in the symposium.



Toshio Kuroki
WPI Program Director



Setsuo Arikawa
President, Kyushu University



Petros Sofronis
Director, I²CNER

The symposium was divided into two days with a total of twenty-nine speakers. The first day, March 6, entitled “Powering the Future,” offered attendees an overview of the most current energy breakthroughs, as well as the serious barriers to a carbon-neutral energy future from the perspective of representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy, National Laboratories, and Toyota Motor Corporation. March 7 was broken into four sessions, and featured speakers from the Institute, who explained their current research projects and suggested future research directions.



Group Photo

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

Kumamoto University

The graduate program on negotiation, conflict resolution, and organizational management (Established in 2008)

Kumamoto University started Japan's first graduate program specializing in conflict resolution and organizational management in 2008. Our mission is to respond to expanding social needs of resolving conflict and of building consensus in the global and multi-cultural society and to seek the actualization of a better society in the 21st century. We provide educational programs at the masters and doctoral (PhD) levels. Our program is an interdisciplinary program which includes professors that specialize in conflict transformation, behavioral sciences, economy, management, communication, philosophy and so on; students can take various courses from other departments of the graduate school of social cultural sciences such as public policy, sociology, and ethics according to their own interest. Most of the students are mid-career professionals from various backgrounds including health care, education, politics, business, development, etc. We have both domestic and international students.

As the first graduate program in the field in Japan, we have been playing a leadership role by collaborating with many professors of conflict resolution from all over Japan and from overseas, including the USA and other Asian countries. We are running several research programs on 1) strategic design of the study of conflict resolution in Japanese context, 2) conflict transformation and peacebuilding after the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake including the nuclear disaster, 3) conflict resolution and safety management in health care, 4) restorative justice and transitional justice. We are anticipating more collaboration in research and education with active researchers and practitioners from overseas. International students and visiting scholars who are interested in conflict resolution and organizational management in Japanese and Asian contexts are welcome! We are looking forward to studying and collaborating with you.

Contact Akiko Ishihara, Associate Professor (Conflict Transformation, Peacebuilding)

E-mail: aishi@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

URL: <http://www.gsscs.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/edu/zenki/gen/01/index.html>



Graduation Picture with The Program Director



International Symposium on the Earthquake



Students from China, Japan, and Lao