



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

San Francisco Office

2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 920 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

Dr. Takeda becomes permanent Director of JSPS San Francisco Office

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The new Director of JSPS San Francisco Office, Dr. Seishi Takeda

As of August 1, 2004, the JSPS San Francisco Office was graciously made complete with a permanent director, Dr. Seishi Takeda.

Formerly conducting dual directorship of both the Washington Office and the San Francisco Office, Dr. Seishi Takeda first made his move publicly known at the 9th "Science in Japan" Forum in Washington DC in

June of this year. Since this public announcement, we've received countless letters of congratulations and well wishes on his new position.

Dr. Takeda is a professor at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) in Tsukuba, Japan. A physicist by trade and specializing in particle accelerator research, he has also spent a year as the Financial Officer for the US-Japan Cooperative Program in High Energy Physics at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC).

He has contributed to the promotion of science exchange between the US and Japan, particularly in high energy physics, for many years. For that reason, in

2000, he became the director for the JSPS Washington Office. Then in 2003, with the opening of the JSPS San Francisco Office, Dr. Takeda was appointed director of both offices.

As aforementioned, Dr. Takeda currently presides over the JSPS SF Office, and is looking forward to involving the SF Office in future collaborations in various research fields with universities and institutions in the US and Canada. Although he is a physicist, Dr. Takeda would like to stress that JSPS does encourage exchange in other research fields such as social sciences, humanities, education, as well as many other natural sciences.

We've Moved!!!

As of August 1, 2004, JSPS San Francisco Office has officially moved to its new suite on the ninth floor. For those of you who have not made the update in your contact information, please be sure to do so.

Our new mailing address will be as follows:

JSPS, San Francisco Office
2150 Shattuck Ave., Ste. 920
Berkeley, CA 94704

Our phone number and fax numbers have remained the same. However, please be sure to take a look at our new website :

www.jspsusa-sf.org

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Bay Area & Japan Related News

Osaka University opens its San Francisco Office



The motto of “ Live Locally, Grow Globally” has made its way to the San Francisco Bay Area this year. The evening of September 8, 2004, Osaka University, San Francisco Office had its opening reception at the SF Asian Art Museum. On September 9, 2004, a two day symposium titled “21st Century Center Excellence for Frontier Science and Technology in Osaka University” commenced the opening of the office.

The events began with opening statements from the President of Osaka University, Prof. Hideo Miyahara. The symposium was a success as many prominent speakers gave interesting talks on various topics such as Nanotechnology, life sciences, and much more.

On behalf of JSPS SF, we would like to applaud the Executive Director, Prof. Yoshikatsu Murooka, and his

staff for such wonderful efforts on a successful opening reception. Having early beginnings as a liberal college, Osaka University will surely be welcomed warmly with open arms to San Francisco and its community.

*Osaka University, San Francisco Office can be contacted at :
120 Montgomery Street, Suite 1270,
San Francisco, CA 94104*

www.osaka-u-sf.org

JSPS Fellow and UCLA find connection behind earthquakes



Photo taken by Dr. Seishi Takeda

Sachiko Tanaka, a visiting JSPS Fellow from Tohoku University, in combination with her colleagues Elizabeth S. Cochran and John E. Vidale of UCLA have become the envy of many fellow researchers in the field of geo-

planetary physics. The group has found striking evidence in the correlation between earthquakes in relation to the gravitational pull on the earth by the moon and sun. Scientists have been trying for centuries to come up with concrete

evidence of such types of relations. The team of researchers was able to develop their findings with the use of the facilities in the Harvard Moment Tensor (CMT) catalog. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/rapidpdf/1103961v1.pdf>

UC Santa Cruz aids in developing artificial retina

UC Santa Cruz has joined a research collaboration with the Department of Energy, a private sector, and two other universities in an effort to design an artificial retina to help those that suffer from retinal diseases as well as related blindness. http://www.ucnewswire.org/news_viewer.cfm?story_PK=4242

UC Berkeley and a promising Samoan tree bark

UC Berkeley is hoping to clone the gene sequence of the promising mamala tree bark, which the Samoan government has claimed sole rights to. Researchers hope to reproduce the sequence and use it to force the AIDS virus from the immune system. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/10/01/BAGG69288Q1.DTL>

UC Irvine honors Nobel Winner

Irwin Rose, a professor emeritus of UC Irvine, will share the Nobel prize for chemistry with two Israeli scientists in finding the ways in which cells rid themselves of unwanted proteins. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/10/07/MNG5U9513R1.DTL>

We Asked a JSPS Fellow...

Dr. Mori is currently conducting research in the Department of Chemistry at UC Berkeley. He is focusing on the design and synthesis of novel solid-state materials and the evaluation of their chemical and physical properties. His dissertation work deals with the study of the development of functionalized heterogeneous catalysts using hydroxyapatite—the main component for bones and teeth—for organic synthesis aiming at environmentally benign chemical processes. He has designed many types of transition metal-containing hydroxyapatite catalysts and evaluated their catalytic properties for the various oxidation reactions using molecular oxygen and carbon-carbon bond forming reactions.

His present project at UC Berkeley is the synthesis and characterization of novel aluminosilicate mesoporous materials. Mesoporous materials with well defined pore sizes have received much attention, as they have potential applications as adsorbents, catalysts, and supports in the chemical and petrochemical industries.

JSPS SF was able to have a brief interview with Dr. Mori, in which we were able to ask him about his experiences thus far in his research abroad:

What was your main interest to research abroad in the United States?

France, in addition to the US, is another leading country in the advancement for my research field. However, I chose the US

because I wanted to place myself in the most competitive and enthusiastic environment in relation to my age. I also had the desire to learn about the American perspective on research, by actually participating in research activities in a US lab.

What is your impression of the research environment in the US? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

I am really impressed that everyone in the lab, from graduate students to professors, can concentrate on one's research as much as one wants. In Japan, professors are responsible for their research, the management of the university, as well as education.

In addition, Japanese people have the general belief that public access to information regarding on-going research is limited in the US. So, I was surprised to find that there are so many seminars casually held at UC Berkeley. New data and results are available to students and researchers to share. As a visiting scholar, I have many opportunities to attend those events, acquire knowledge, new ways of thinking, and free food too.

Also, I'm a little jealous of the internationalized circumstances of US labs. I knew that the "globalization of laboratories" is set to be one of the main goals within Japanese science policy, but I really have discovered how much it is needed during my experiences here.

Have you experienced any degree of culture shock?

I suppose I have, but I can't recall any particular instances at the moment. I expect that I will be more aware of the changes in my behavior when I return to Japan.

Have you started any new hobbies?

I do enjoy driving around the Bay Area in a car I purchased for only \$200. Having said that, my scenic drives are limited to places that are flat, as inclines can sometimes be troublesome.

Is there any particular product, food or otherwise, that you wish you could find in the US?

I really wish there was a *takoyaki** place here in Berkeley.
*Note: Takoyaki is small baked bun stuffed with octopus, that is eaten warm with salty sauce and mayonnaise.

What have been your greatest accomplishments during your experience as a JSPS Fellow?

The most significant experience as a JSPS Fellow has been being able to come to UC Berkeley to conduct my research. Making the most of my experiences here in order to benefit my career will of course be my next challenge.



Dr. Kohsuke Mori 森 浩亮
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Science, Osaka University
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Science
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“I think that the remarkable progress in the development of novel materials has resulted in an exciting field of research in nanotechnology.”

*Please note that this interview was conducted in Japanese and translated into English.

Upcoming Fellowship Deadlines

Please note that the next upcoming deadline for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Short-term) is :

December 6-10, 2004

If you are interested in applying, please be sure to get your completed application to the JSPS SF Office at least one week prior to the above dates. JSPS SF can send your application directly to our headquarters!

What's Happening at JSPS San Francisco

Noriko Suzuki, as **Deputy Director**, is currently focusing on future collaborations between JSPS and other institutions. At present she is heading the upcoming colloquium co-held with UC Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies, to be held in March 2005, focusing on "The Globalization of Japanese Studies." In addition, she is currently exploring the possibilities of similar academic meetings with other institutions, one being the University of British Columbia. Should you be interested in this type of event, please feel free to contact her. Ms. Suzuki has been with the JSPS SF Office since its establishment in 2003, preceded by eight years at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT).

Gloria Muñoz, as **Liaison Officer**, is coincidentally heading this newsletter and would greatly appreciate any type of feedback or suggestions you may have regarding this project. In addition, she serves as the link between two cultures, through the use of her bilingual skills, and does all that she can in order to maintain a balance and understanding from both perspectives. Ms. Muñoz has been with the JSPS SF Office since January of this year, is a former JET Program participant from 2002-3, and an alum from SFSU.

Kazuoyoshi Watanabe, as **Program Coordinator**, spends much of his time building and sustaining a network for Japanese researchers in the US. At present, he is compiling a list of Japanese JSPS Fellows who are currently researching and residing in the US. If you are such type of fellow and have yet to receive an e-mail from us, please be sure to contact him via webmaster. Any other questions or opinions concerning the Japanese researchers' network, please feel free to contact him. Mr. Watanabe joined the SF Office this April from the University of Tsukuba, after spending a year with our JSPS Headquarters in the Overseas Fellowship Division.

Atsushi Haruki, as **Program Coordinator**, is kept busy by promoting JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs, especially the Short-term program for North American and European researchers. This particular program is for both pre and Postdoctoral researchers from the US, Canada, and Europe. The first recruitment for the year 2005 will be December 6-10, 2004. In addition, he is currently arranging meetings between JSPS and several universities in Texas to promote these programs. Mr. Haruki joined the SF Office in April of this year, previously from the International Planning Division of the Kyoto Institute of Technology, after spending a year with our Tokyo Headquarters in the Asian Program Division.

Check out our website!

www.jspsusa-sf.org
