



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

San Francisco Office

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

Director Dr. Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2009.

JSPS San Francisco Office marked its 6th anniversary of establishment in May 2009. The SF Office's academic exchange and cooperation programs cover not only the West Coast, but the whole of the United States as well as Canada.

Since its establishment, the SF Office has given special focus to the following areas, "holding colloquia and symposia with academic institutions," "introducing JSPS Fellowship Programs to promote science exchange," "creating a network amongst Japanese fellows," and "supporting the internationalization of Japanese universities in the U.S."

As for holding symposia, the SF Office will co-organize both the "International Conference on Tracing the Study of Japanese Buddhism" and the "Symposium on Japan and Japanese America Connections Across the Pacific Rim" with the Center for the Japanese Studies, UC Berkeley in FY 2009. The SF office is preparing two symposia co-organized by University of Washington in Seattle, and by McGill University, Concordia University and University of Montreal in Canada for the next FY 2010.

Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. Eight Japanese universities have opened their branch offices in the San Francisco Bay Area to stimulate the academic exchange between Japan and the U.S. The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area, called JUNBA, was organized in August of 2006 to create more active academic exchange by collaborating with individual universities. The JSPS SF Office serves the administrative function of JUNBA. The Fourth JUNBA Summit, Symposium and Technology Fair, called "JUNBA 2010", will be held in the SF Bay Area in January 2010.

JSPS San Francisco Office will strive to promote even further international scientific exchange across a wide spectrum of fields. In this endeavor, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and support.



JSPS San Francisco office welcomes new Program Coordinators

Ayaka Yamashita, joined our office as **Program Coordinator** to oversee accounting affairs, coordinate gatherings, and help coordinate co-held colloquia, for example, with UC Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies. Before coming to San Francisco, she worked at JSPS headquarters in the Asian Program Division where she coordinated joint events and programs with other Asian countries. Since she had been working with international students at Kyoto University, she is eager to learn about the student exchange and international programs here in the United States. She is impressed by seeing most of the signs and instructions in two languages; English and Spanish and is excited about



meeting people across racial lines by traveling around the United States.

Yoshio Nishibayashi, as **Program Coordinator**, takes charge of administrative affairs for the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) and also helps coordinate co-held colloquia. Before coming to San Francisco, he worked for JSPS Tokyo headquarters in the Research Cooperation Division II for a year and managed scientific symposiums between Japan and Germany as well as France. He learned visitor hospitality through these experiences. Before that, he had been in charge of accounting affairs at the Faculty of Education, Nagasaki University. His great grand parents immigrated to the US and he longs for doing his best at the origin of his



family, the West Coast. He is planning to travel around the US and having fun with his family in the States.

Shingo Saito, came from Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST). As **Program Coordinator**, his main tasks are promoting JSPS fellowships, managing the JSPS website and editing the newsletter. Last year he worked at JSPS headquarters in charge of bilateral cooperative research between Japan and other Asian countries. He is eager to learn a lot of things in this new workplace so that he can contribute to the internationalization of Japanese universities. During his stay in San Francisco, he plans to experience many things, for example, making new friends and traveling around many places. Learning English is another task for him.



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EVENTS OF SPRING 2009

JSPS San Francisco Office Wishes a Heartfelt Farewell to Ms. Komatsu

Farewell to our Deputy Director, Akiko Komatsu!



Akiko Komatsu has fulfilled her 2 year contract as Deputy Director for the JSPS San Francisco Office. Returning to Japan at the end of June, she immediately began working for MEXT as unit chief in the department of Ministry's Secretariat Personnel Division General Affairs Section. During her short stay here, Miss Komatsu managed and organized our office. Here is what she had to say about her experience here in America.

Q. *What did you accomplish professionally and personally during your time here in the U.S. and with JSPS San Francisco?*

A. I especially would like to mention the good team I had to work with for the past two years. I doubt I will ever forget

what they have taught me. Professionally I was able to organize many events and communicate with many people. Personally, I was able to make a lot of friends.

Q. *Could you give any advice to your successor?*

A. Basically enjoy each and every single day and meet as many people as you can. You will be able to gain good experience to handle and organize this office as a deputy director. In fact, this two year experience will be beneficial and helpful for your future career.

Q. *What will you miss the most about America?*

A. I will miss, of course my co-workers in SF office, nice weather in Berkeley, and a variety of foods like Asian, European and American foods. I will especially miss the wonderful and dynamic view of America the most. I traveled a lot during the past two years and by the end, I had visited 28 states in the U.S. I would like to drive the wide and straight-long highway again if I can come back here.

Q. *What are you looking forward to the most in Japan?*

A. Since I had a good team here, I would like to have a good team in Japan as well and work efficiently and happily there too. Personally, I am looking forward to meeting my family, friends, and co-workers again.

Q. *How has living in America changed you?*

A. In Japan, I couldn't lay back mentally and physically and I always felt rushed while working there. I changed drastically throughout my stay here in America. The atmosphere and weather here might make me energetic and positive.

Q. *What farewell message would you like to leave for everyone?*

A. I have so many outstanding people to thank for their support and dedication. I have learnt so much from you and now possess a greater understanding of the complexities in a work environment. And I want to thank everyone for their huge contribution!

From the entire staff of JSPS SF office, we will miss you Akiko and we wish you all the best! Thank you for all your hard work and don't forget us!

JSPS SF Represents at 42nd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California

For the 6th year in a row the Japan Pavilion (a group of Japanese organizations abridged by the Japan Information Center of the Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco) invited JSPS to participate in this year's exhibit at the Hotel Kabuki during the first two-day celebration of the 42nd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival.



San Francisco was sunny on both April 11th and 12th, and we were all able to enjoy a beautiful Cherry Blossom Festival. The Japan Pavilion inside Hotel Kabuki had a good circulation of visitors and we were all given the opportunity to advertise ourselves and draw more people down to Hotel Kabuki.

Inside the Imperial Ball Room B at Hotel Kabuki, the JSPS staff prepared a booth along with many Japan-related organizations and groups such as the Japan Information Center of the Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco and the Japan Society and so on. Osaka University San Francisco Center also branched off the Japan Pavilion and rented a booth.

We displayed a beautiful and informative booth – featuring JSPS brochures and information packets, fellowship guideline handouts, and the book 'Life in Japan for Foreign Researchers'. The booth was constantly manned by the staff of our office. Many visitors were interested in JSPS activities and requested information for the fellowship programs. Many of them, scientists and students, were listening attentively to our explanation about JSPS. It was also a good opportunity for JSPS to connect with new people, and for the newest member of our office, Ayaka Yamashita, Shingo Saito and Yoshio Nishibayashi, to speak about JSPS in English. We look forward to this opportunity again next year.





President of JUNBA
Yuji Ide

The "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2009" was held in JSPS San Francisco Office on May 12th.

On May 12th, JUNBA held its 3rd general assembly meeting at Hakone garden. The purpose of such a meeting is to report on JUNBA's affairs broadly, over the course of an entire year. This was the 3rd general assembly meeting for JUNBA, bringing together about 30 participants. The meeting started with remarks from JUNBA president Mr. Ide. Following the opening remarks, the officers of JUNBA introduced a report on JUNBA's affairs of 2008 and introduced the JUNBA board members.

After the meeting, a reception was held. During the reception, the participants of varying avocations stuck around to exchange information and newly network with each other. And we earnestly await for more individuals and associations to enter JUNBA as members, to better assist JUNBA's mission to speed up internationalization of the Japanese universities.

JUNBA plays a uniquely significant role in promoting the internationalization of Japanese higher education and research from its base in America. In this endeavor, the JSPS San Francisco Office would like to continue to offer its encouragement and support.

JUNBA Website <http://www.jspusa-sf.org/junba/>

JUNBA

JAPANESE UNIVERSITY NETWORK IN THE BAY AREA

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.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF FALL 2009

The 12th Gathering of Japanese Fellows

JSPS San Francisco Office will hold the 12th Gathering of JSPS Fellows this Fall. The purpose of this gathering 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 fields, and support network building among these researchers. We have had 11 gatherings in the past, and this time, we will hold the gathering in Boston, Massachusetts. It is a complimentary buffet style dinner party. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers' participation.

JSPS San Francisco Office 2001 Addison Street, #260 Berkeley, CA 94704-1181

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The 1st & 2nd meeting for university administration officers in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco office held The 1st meeting for university administration officers in the U.S, on April 8th.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network between administration officers from Japanese universities, which are based around the San Francisco Bay area. The participants were from Osaka University, Kagoshima University, Kyushu University, Tokyo University of Science, and JSPS San Francisco office. Participants briefly introduced themselves and their activities around the Bay Area. We exchanged opinions eagerly about the difference of work between Japan and San Francisco and how we were sent overseas by our universities. We felt that it was meaningful to boost exchange between people from different universities. We hope we will have the next meeting soon.



JSPS San Francisco office held The 2nd meeting for university administration officers in the U.S on May 26th.

The participants came from JSPS San Francisco office, JSPS Washington office, Kyushu University, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Staff from MEXT joined the meeting for the first time as LEAP (Long-term Educational Administrators Program for International Exchange). Participants belonged to the following institutions: High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Hiroshima University, Kobe University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Oita University, Shizuoka University, Tohoku University, Tokyo Institute of Technology and Tokyo University. We gave brief introductions about ourselves and our activities and were able to share information useful to our work by exchanging opinions eagerly about the difference in the duties we have been in charge of. We will have the 3rd meeting on September 9th at JSPS San Francisco office.



BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The 11th Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows in the San Francisco office



On May 12th, JSPS San Francisco Office held its 11th "Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows" in the JSPS San Francisco office.

These meetings are meant to promote cross-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers laboring in the US. While serving to deepen the friendly relationships amongst them, the meeting also provides the researchers with an opportunity to build working networks. Participating in this year's first gathering were 36 researchers, many of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. Still others were invited from among Japanese researchers currently residing in the US.

The meeting started with greetings from San Francisco Office director Prof. Seishi Takeda. Time was set aside for the participants to introduce themselves and briefly describe their research work through PowerPoint. Participants eagerly listened to each presenters' research work. After their presentation, they engaged each other in free conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the US in a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere. Giving them a context to delve deeper into each other's work, this further energized their discussions. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the US.

JSPS San Francisco Center will continue to play an important role in providing such an opportunity for network building events among young Japanese researchers.

The next gathering for young Japanese researchers will be held in Boston, this coming October.



BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The 11th International Symposium on Exocrine Secretion (ISES), Tokushima 09

“ Exocrine Secretion – Mechanism and Disease ”

- July 23 (Thu) – 25 (Sat), 2009
- The University of Tokushima (Kuramoto Campus, Nagai Memorial Hall)
- http://www.dent.tokushima-u.ac.jp/seiri/11th_ISES/ISES_top_1.html

Plenary Lecture: “ The Many Roles of Aquaporins in Mammalian Physiology”
Dr. Alan S. Verkman (University of California, San Francisco)

Keynote Lecture: “ The Exocrine Gland Fluid Secretion Mechanism”
Dr. James E. Melvin (University of Rochester Medical Center, New York)
“ Salivary Gland and Autoimmunity”
Dr. Yoshio Hayashi (The University of Tokushima Graduate School, Tokushima)

Symposium:

- 1) Development, Regeneration, and Tissue Engineering of the Glandular Tissue
- 2) Response of the Glandular Tissue to Environmental Stress and Neural/Hormonal Control
- 3) Regulation of Exocrine Gland by Taste Stimulation (Ajinomoto-sponsored session)
- 4) Signal Transduction of the Glandular Tissue
- 5) Membrane Trafficking and Molecular/Cellular Dynamics in the Exocrine Secretion
- 6) Aquaporin and Ion Transporter: Physiology and Disease

Organizing Committee of the 11th ISES
Chairman: Kazuo Hosoi
(The University of Tokushima Graduate School)
Vice-chairs: Ivana Novak (University of Copenhagen),
Masataka Murakami
(National Institute for Natural Sciences)

Hosted by Department of Molecular Oral
Physiology, Institute of Health Biosciences,
The University of Tokushima Graduate School

Co-hosted by Institute of Health Biosciences,
The University of Tokushima Graduate School
and The University of Tokushima Graduate School
of Oral Sciences

Supported by Tokushima Prefecture, Tokushima City,
The Japanese Association of Anatomists,
The Physiological Society of Japan,
The Japanese Biochemical Society,
The Japan Society for Cell Biology,
The Molecular Biology Society of Japan,
The Zoological Society of Japan,
Japanese Association for Oral Biology, and
Japan Salivary Gland Society

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Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Keiji Nishida's Interview

Dr. Keiji Nishida

B.S., Biological Science, University of Tokyo, 2001
 Ph.D., Biological Science, University of Tokyo, 2006,
 JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (DC1), 2003-2006
 JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (PD) at Research Information Center for Extremophile, Rikkyo University, 2006-2009

Visiting Scientist at Department of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School 2008-2009

Dr. Keiji Nishida was first involved in taxonomy and ecology when he was an undergraduate. He enjoyed field work out in nature, observing unique vascular plant species in the river, which are on the verge of extinction. Then he jumped into a laboratory of cell biology for his Ph.D., where he studied molecular mechanisms of endosymbiosis. Endosymbiosis is a hypothetical evolutionary process through which mitochondria and chloroplast had been obtained by engulfing free living bacteria. After getting a Ph.D., he began his postdoc career at Rikkyo University, where he adopted genomic and proteomic approaches on identifying novel proteins and their functions which should be involved in mitochondrial division. On his third postdoc year, he set his career on an emerging field of synthetic biology, and came to the U.S.. He is now developing a synthetic approach toward organelle biogenesis and function, namely trying to design and synthesize parts of cell architecture. He expects such study will facilitate understanding of the design principle of the cell.

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

Obviously, the U.S. now has the strongest presence in the field of biology, but I think the U.S. also has been quick in developing new fields and directions. I had a feeling that the current, conventional

biology was getting saturated as an academia, and I wished to find out what the new generation of biology should be like. I thought synthetic biology could be the one, which was about to emerge in U.S..

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

My impression is that they think much about human interaction beyond labs. New ideas are often developed through such interaction and discussion, and then quickly tested. The school department is much more helpful to postdocs and international scientists. Career development and job search are well encouraged and supported by providing seminars and training as well as information. I also found that many U.S. research institutions rely for their finance on funds and donations so heavily that they now have to tighten their budgets in this economic downturn.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

As for scientific levels, there is not much. I can perform experiments more efficiently and systematically with the help of knowledgeable scientists, professional

staffs and good equipment inside and outside the lab. I can have opportunities to discuss and make connection with people including the world's top leaders or high potential young scientists coming from all over the world.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

In the future I want to have my own lab and work together and mentor young scientists there. I also wish to work for improving science literacy of ordinary Japanese, which I think is a problem now. What I would suggest to young researchers is that, the younger you are, the better for research abroad. You have to be energetic enough to overcome difficulties you might face, such as the language and cultural gap in conjunction with your research problems. It would be better if you could do it while you are a grad student because you are supposed to be immature and somewhat allowed to make mistakes. I want to believe that willing to take on tough times will pay off in the end, or having a tough time abroad could be fun in the end.

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

Jinsub Park's Interview



My name is Jinsub Park. Now I am conducting research at LBL in UC Berkeley as a JSPS fellow after graduating from the Yao

Group in Tohoku University. I am interested in growth and characterization of III-Nitride and ZnO using the MOCVD and MBE system. I am especially interested in the polarity control of ZnO films using the novel buffer layers in addition to fabrication of periodically polarity inverted (PPI) ZnO structures and the applications to nonlinear optical devices such as second harmonic generation device. While here, I hope to extend my research field to nano-materials based on previous compound semiconductor.

Q1. Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

In the case of nanotechnology, some U.S. research groups are leading the research direction. Therefore, I wanted to see the origin of the power in U.S. research groups. Of course I enjoy the adventure of exploring the new world which is very exciting.

Dr. Jinsub Park

MS: Materials Science and Engineering, GIST, Korea 2002
Ph.D. (Engineering) Tohoku University, Japan, 2009
JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists at Institute for Materials Research 2008
JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (PD) at LBL and University of California Berkeley 2009-

Jan. 2006 - Mar. 2009

Ph.D. candidate, Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University Sponsored by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Jan. 2002-Dec 2005 Research Engineer, Samsung Electro-mechanics Co. Ltd.

Jan. 2000-Jan 2002 MS. in Material Science and Engineering, GIST.

Q2. What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

Until now, I could experience a variety of cultures and languages regardless of nationality. In the case of research, joint research without borders between different department or institutions has become a paradigm in America. They would like to study, learn, and complete projects with co-workers. This research culture makes the synergy effect. In addition, young researchers including students and professors give and take their opinions actively at research discussion and seminars.

Q3. What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

Conducting research in the U.S. helps to

extend the human networks in the research field. Moreover, the open mindedness here to discuss some research topics will give many chances to determine the research direction. Famous researchers and professors whom we can find in texts or papers give seminars at universities which means we can have the opportunity to discuss with prominent researchers.

Q4. What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

I want to be faculty at a university because I want to share my experiences with young students who have the ambition to make a contribution to improve human life with their useful research. If you determine under the determination of God, don't hesitate enjoying life including research in the new world.

JSPS SF Office Always Welcomes Your News

We are looking forward to hearing your news regarding international related events and so on.

If you have any news about your institution or your research, please feel free to ask us about including it in this newsletter.

This newsletter will be distributed to international sections in Japanese universities and subscribers in the Bay Area.

As always, should you have any specific questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, feel free to contact us at

webmaster@jpspsusa-sf.org

Check out our website!
www.jpspsusa-sf.org