

# JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER



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## Message from Director Toru Tamiya

In April 2016, I arrived as the Director of the JSPS San Francisco Office. Since then I have spent many busy days, and one year has already passed. Although I have been to the United Kingdom for academic meetings, this is my first experience living in an English-speaking country.

My first impression of the United States is that it is a huge country. California, where our office is located, is the third largest state by surface area, preceded only by Alaska and Texas. Though only the third largest state, the surface area of California is 1.1 times larger than that of Japan. The territory of the San Francisco Office is also extremely large, including Western Canada, Western United States, Central America, and South America. Until last fiscal year, our office has made efforts to cover our entire territory, reaching out to many universities beyond the Bay Area.

However, this fiscal year, our focus centered on building strong relationships with research universities right here in the Bay Area. By strengthening our networks in our own neighborhood, we will have a stable base upon which to expand our activities in the near future. In the next fiscal year, we have plans to expand activities to Southern California, Washington, Texas, Canada, and Mexico.

Although the number of Japanese students has declined in the United States in recent years, it is clear that the US is still a leader in many research fields. This is particularly true on the West Coast, where there is a saturation of leading research universities, as well as distinguished innovation companies located in Silicon Valley. The West Coast also faces Asia across the Pacific Ocean, and thus the geographic relationship with Asia is very strong. Japanese universities are changing dramatically in the area of internationalization, and the globalization strategies of leading research universities in the Bay Area are good examples for Japanese universities and research institutions.

Many Japanese research universities aim to form partnerships with world-ranking top-class research universities on the West Coast. However, without careful analysis of the strengths of both universities

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entering the partnership, the relationships can be difficult to maintain. In order for Japanese universities to make meaningful, win-win partnerships with US universities, a good deal of background analysis is necessary. The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area, or JUNBA, is comprised of local offices of major Japanese universities, and strives to gather such background information and make the connections necessary to make informed recommendations to their universities back in Japan. By supporting JUNBA, the JSPS San Francisco Office aims to support meaningful partnerships between Japanese and US universities.

Supporting JUNBA is only one of the many ways that the JSPS San Francisco Office aims to increase the presence of Japan in the US. We will also continue to build and support the network of Japanese researchers in the Bay Area, not only JSPS-sponsored postdoctoral visiting scholars from Japan, but also independent researchers from Japanese universities and companies, as well as Japanese faculty staff members with permanent positions in Bay Area universities.

JSPS San Francisco also aims to build a fellowship alumni branch on the West Coast. With over 2000 alumni in the US chapter, there is a need to establish sub-chapters in order to provide meaningful support for program alumni.

Finally, as a funder of post-secondary research, we recognize the need to support the next generation of researchers with undergraduate and Master's level exchange. Early international research experiences for both Japanese and American researchers can spark future interest in international research collaboration.

The JSPS San Francisco Office aims to realize these concrete goals within the next few years.

## PAST EVENTS

### Winter Researcher Gathering 2017

On January 28th, JSPS San Francisco held the 2017 Researcher Gathering at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.

The biannual gathering provides an opportunity for Japanese researchers to expand their networks through sharing their research, as well as viewpoints on differences in research environments and methods between the U.S. and Japan. This year for the first time, west coast-based US JSPS Fellows Alumni Association members deepened the network, participating in the Researcher Reception and sharing their experience researching in Japan. More than 80 people including JSPS fellows, visiting and resident Japanese researchers, university administrators and US JSPS Fellows alumni participated in the event.

Dr. Toru Tamiya, Director of JSPS San Francisco opened the gathering, followed by young researchers who shared their current research activities. JSPS funding programs available to participants were then introduced.



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JSPS San Francisco welcomed Dr. Fumiko Tajima, Lecturer, University of California, Irvine, Department of Physics & Astronomy as the keynote speaker. Dr. Tajima formerly a professor at the Hiroshima University Graduate School of Science shared her experience as a researcher in her keynote titled “My journey around the world.”

Following her speech, participants divided into 12 groups to exchange views and experiences on 1-5 themes pertaining to career advancement in research such as strategies for creating a productive research life now and in the future.

Dr. Tajima and Dr. Tamiya closed the event with their comments about life as researchers,

and the Researcher Reception began. Both Japanese and American researchers strengthened connections through mutual exchange at the reception.

The next Researcher Gathering will be held this summer in Berkeley.



## 17th Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 17th workshop for Japanese university administrative staff in the U.S. on January 27, 2017 in Berkeley.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for professional development and networking for university administrative staff from Japan.

This year, the workshop was run using the active learning style. Thirteen university staff joined the workshop from various universities as part of their training programs.

Mr. Tatsuro Yoneda, Professor, California State University, East Bay and Provost at Fukuoka Institute of Technology, and Ms. Aya Chiwata, Director, Fukuoka Institute of Technology California Office, joined as guest lecturers. From JSPS San Francisco, Advisors Yuki Nakamura and Ayako Shimizu also joined as facilitators. Advisor Hiroyasu Haruyama of the JSPS Washington Office also participated as a special guest.

At the beginning of the workshop, participants introduced themselves in a unique way. They



wrote down their own ‘best thing about being a university staff’ or ‘number one reason why I stay in my job,’ and shared their answers with the group. A variety of opinions were expressed. Some participants mentioned the smiles of students, and others pointed out the talented researchers they meet on campus.

Participants were then divided into two groups to discuss challenges at Japanese universities, then presented their findings to the other group. These presentations allowed all partici-

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pants to compare viewpoints and spark discussion about possible solutions.

After the presentations, all participants and lecturers came together and talked about the various challenges and solution in depth. In addition to each participant’s own experience and opinion,

lecturers and facilitators offered new perspectives from their positions at US universities and MEXT. By exchanging opinions with peers and gaining knowledge of the working environment at US and Japanese universities, participants were motivated to improve the work situations at their own universities in Japan. They exchanged their opinions in relaxed atmosphere.

## UC Berkeley Symposium: “New Topics, Technologies, & New Times: Japan Ahead”

Co-sponsored by JSPS

On February 24 and 25, JSPS San Francisco and the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS), University of California, Berkeley held a joint symposium on “New Topics, Technologies, & New Times: Japan Ahead” at the International House in Berkeley.

The objective of this symposium was to bring together scholars of Japanese Studies from Japan and the US to discuss the future of Japan in academic communities. The symposium started with opening remarks by Professor Dana Buntrock, Chair of CJS, and Dr. Toru Tamiya, Director of JSPS San Francisco. More than 20 scholars came together to discuss five topics over the course of two days: “Cross-Cultural Exchanges: Study Abroad and Its Impact,” “Language Education and Where It Leads,” “Are Science, Technology, Engineering and Math a Part of Area Studies or Above

it?” “Media Gateways, Transnational Frames,” and “Area Studies Under Threat: How Will Japan be Taught in the Years Ahead?” JSPS sponsored four session speakers: Professor Shingo Ashizawa, Toyo University, Professor Masayo Fujimoto, Doshisha University, Professor Mayumi Usami, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, and Professor Shunya Yoshimi, the University of Tokyo.

These sessions were followed by a keynote speech by Professor Patricia Steinhoff from the University of Hawaii. She shared her wealth of research experience with the participants and gave insight on the future of Japanese Studies in academic communities in the age of globalization. JSPS San Francisco will continue to support such symposiums, and maintain a strong partnership with CJS.



## Fellowships for Research in Japan

### JSPS Booth at the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting

From December 12-16 2016, JSPS San Francisco presented a booth with the Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU) at the 2016 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in San Francisco. JSPS San Francisco participated for the second straight year, aiming to promote fellowships and expand international networks.

Over 25,000 participants attended, not only US scholars but researchers from all over the world, in both academia and industry. Many research fields were represented, including geophysics, marine science, space science, and environmental science, among many others. More than 280 researchers visited the JSPS booth over four days seeking detailed information on JSPS fellowships.

Toru Tamiya, Director of JSPS San Francisco, and Deputy Director Junji Oshima participated in the exclusive Icebreaker Reception for exhibitors and selected researchers prior to the opening of the meeting. As representatives of the JSPS San Francisco Office, they expanded the JSPS network

of international researchers.

JSPS will continue to promote fellowships and deepen networks at large international research conferences.



For more information about upcoming info sessions, as well as fellowship eligibility and other details, please contact the JSPS San Francisco Office:

[fellowships@jpspsusa-sf.org](mailto:fellowships@jpspsusa-sf.org)

or visit us at our website:

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/>

## PAST INFORMATION SESSIONS

When	Where
December 12-16, 2016	AGU Fall Meeting
January 20, 2017	Stanford University
February 8, 2017	University of California, Davis
March 1, 2017	University of California, San Diego

JSPS San Francisco will continue to hold informational sessions at universities on the West Coast. Please check our website for the most updated information: <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/fellowships.html>

## INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S.

### MIKA ISHINO



2016- | Visiting Graduate Researcher at Center for Language, Culture, and Interaction, University of California, Los Angeles

2015- | Ph.D Candidate at Language and Culture Department, Osaka University, Japan

2015- | JSPS Research Fellow (DC1)

2014-2016 | Part time Lecture of Basic English at Osaka Seikei University, Japan

2013-2014 | Full time English teacher at Osaka Seikei Girl's High School, Japan

2012-2013 | Full time English teacher at Tokyo Metropolitan Higashi-Yamato High School, Japan

Mika Ishino is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Language and Culture at Osaka University and a visiting graduate researcher in the Center for Language, Culture, and Interaction (CLIC) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Before starting her Ph.D., she was a high school English teacher in Japan, earning her M.E. degree in foreign language education and research in 2013.

Based on her teaching background, she is focusing her research on classroom interaction from a perspective of human social interaction. As a JSPS fellow, she has been conducting ethnographic studies in many junior and senior high schools in Japan and has been working with both novice and experienced teachers in those schools to improve their lessons and classroom environments.

She has been invited by several municipalities' boards of education to give talks about her research findings to teachers who work at junior and senior high schools.

### Why did you choose the U.S. to conduct your research?

I chose CLIC to complete my Ph.D. because CLIC is one of the best places in the world to learn and conduct research on human social interaction.

Among many different kinds of research approaches, I found Conversation Analysis (CA) is the most robust approach to explicate classroom interaction. UCLA is the place where CA was invented and developed in the 1960's by Harvey Sacks. Although Harvey Sacks is no longer living, CLIC is still home to several researchers who worked with him. For this reason, CLIC welcomes not only graduate students but also researchers and scholars from all over the world who want to conduct CA research.

Thus, as I really want to develop myself as a CA researcher, there is no better place to conduct my Ph.D project.

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## What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?

First of all, I must admit that I cannot generalize my personal impression of my research environment here as the “research environment in the US” as I’ve been here less than a year and my status is also a “visiting” graduate researcher.

However, I feel the research environment for Ph.D. students here is well-organized in terms of their life. For example, a teaching assistant position here is considered more of a professional position, and many of my Ph.D. student friends base their livelihoods on this job. With job duties such as assisting professors’ lectures and teaching undergraduate students independently, their salary is high enough to pay their rent and other living costs. Through these teaching assistant jobs, Ph.D. students learn how to teach their specific knowledge to undergraduate students and how to balance their time between teaching and their own study. As I come to know more about the lives of local Ph.D. students, I get the sense that here, working toward a Ph.D. is also a professional job.

Therefore, compared to many Ph.D. students in Japan, the life of Ph.D. students here is more secure and they are recognized and respected by others as adult individuals in society.



## How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?

Among many other advantages, I believe that the strong relationships with my host researcher, Ph.D. colleagues, and UCLA staffs will give me a great advantage in my future research life.

As I mentioned previously, since CLIC is a world leading research center for the study of human social interaction, many famous researchers and outstanding Ph.D. students from all over the world are visiting here to present and discuss their on-going projects. I really enjoy having academic conversations with top-class researchers and making friendships with fellow Ph.D. students. These networks could never be created if I was not here as a visiting graduate student.

This network will be definitely an advantage in my research career. As a part of my future research plan, I would like to invite the researchers in my network to Japan and introduce them to Japanese researchers to conduct collaborative research through our new project on human social interaction. By working with researchers from various cultural backgrounds, we can gain new insight about human interaction.

Finally, I really appreciate JSPS for giving me such a great opportunity. I could never have this great experience without the support of JSPS.

## NEWS FROM JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES

### Moving Forward as Research Partners: University of Tsukuba and University of California, Irvine Relations Gain Momentum

Shimako Kawauchi

UCI-Tsukuba Liaison Officer

Associate Project Scientist, Center for Complex Biological Systems, University of California, Irvine



The University of Tsukuba, under the leadership of President Kyosuke Nagata, has been actively seeking expansion of its unique international and inter-institutional alliances dubbed as “Campus-in-Campus (CiC)” partners for more efficient access and use of academic and research resources. One such successful relationship has been with the University of California, Irvine (UCI). This partnership focuses on strengthening research ties to encourage collaborations and sharing of expertise in areas particularly strong at each institution. Three years in, the collaborations now span widely across disciplines as diverse as Exercise Medicine, Systems Biology, and Aerospace Engineering.

Since the initial agreement signed by President Nagata and former UCI Chancellor Michael Drake in 2013, additional agreements have been negotiated between Tsukuba’s Human Biology Program (HBP) and UCI’s Center for Complex Biological Systems (CCBS), as well as between Tsuku-

ba’s School for Integrative and Global Majors (SIGMA) and UCI’s Graduate Division of Biological Sciences and Medicine. Each venture has enhanced exchange between the universities with more than 200 faculty, researchers, administrative staff and student exchange visits during the past three years.

Short-term student exchange continues to be a major emphasis. Both universities offer unique training courses in their respective areas of expertise for 1-week to 3-month durations. For instance, CCBS has accepted more than 15 Tsukuba students to its national short course in Systems Biology, while the internationally-known Tsukuba Summer Institute for Physical Education and Sport (TSI) has hosted 15 UCI students. UCI’s Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering frequently hosts students from the University of Tsukuba’s Department of Engineering Mechanics & Engineering for summer rotations. UCI students have reciprocated with participation in the summer biomedical research programs and annual Tsukuba Global Science Week (TGSW) conference.

A showcase event highlighting this growing partnership was the joint UCI-Tsukuba Conference on the theme “Exploring Complex Systems from Human Biology to Exercise Sciences” held at UCI in December 2015. The 3-day conference,



the UCI-Tsukuba Science Partnership Conference held at UCI

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attended by a delegation of 20 Tsukuba faculty and graduate students, was organized into three sessions. The first day featured a “Young Scientist Symposium” in which UCI and Tsukuba graduate students presented their outstanding progress in research, and an “Entrepreneurship Education” workshop, in which attendees engaged in panel discussions and exchanged experiences on best practices to support faculty and students to think outside-the-box. The second day focused on the research themes of “Molecular and Cellular Foundations of Human Biology,” while the last day was dedicated to the intersection between “Exercise Medicine & Neuroscience” with distinguished Professor Dan Cooper from UCI’s Institute of Clinical Translational Science as the keynote speaker. The conference concluded with panel discussions by program directors and administrators of the merits and challenges encountered in international student exchanges.

The event was highly successful and confirmed the enthusiasm generated by these new collaborative efforts. The Memorandum of Understanding was renewed in April 2016 between President Nagata and UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman.

For more information, please visit the University of Tsukuba Irvine Office website:

<http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/overseas/irvine>

or contact us at

[irvine-office@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:irvine-office@un.tsukuba.ac.jp).



Study visit of University of Tsukuba Engineering students at UCI

## Tokyo Medical Dental University’s Unique Activities in North and South America

Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) conducts a variety of unique academic projects under the educational philosophy: “to train medical professionals with a rich international quality,” enhancing global competitiveness. Here are three representative examples related to North and South America.

Firstly, TMDU offers a doctoral program in medical sciences with the University of Chile, which is a pioneering joint degree program in Japan. Characteristically, TMDU and the University of Chile jointly organize curricula and confer an academic degree on a student completing the curricula under the names of the presidents of both universities. This program

focuses on the research and clinical training in the areas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery, Colorectal Surgery and Gastroenterology. These are attractive, advanced and innovative courses that cannot be offered by a single university. Students study in both Chile and Japan so that they have chances to create international networks and careers and to be highly specialized medical professionals with international perspectives. Furthermore, the program plays a significant role in strengthening Japanese universities’ international reputation and influencing and contributing to the improvement of higher education at the international level.

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Secondly, TMDU offers a research program named “Project Semester” for 4th- year medical undergraduate students who have completed major subjects and experiments. The aim is to cultivate fundamental skills that are necessary for medical doctors who have a scientific perspective. Students study and conduct their research at TMDU or overseas collaborating institutions, such as Imperial College, the University of Chile and Clínica Las Condes (CLC), Chulalongkorn University, and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana. Not only learning medicine abroad, but also facing the challenges of communicating with people from different cultures will benefit students in their future careers.

Thirdly, in January 2010, TMDU, Clínica Las Condes and the Ministry of Health of Chile (MINSAL) signed an international agreement to implement the “National Colorectal Cancer Screening Project” (PRENEC) with the aim of reducing colorectal cancer mortality rates in Chile. That year, TMDU also established the Latin America Collaborative Research Center (LACRC) which is one of three TMDU Overseas Satellite Offices together with the ones in Ghana and Thailand. LACRC is located within CLC and currently operates with one professional endoscopist from TMDU. Over the years, TMDU has dispatched several experts to Chile. As a result, Chilean professionals have been trained in endoscopic techniques and pathological diagnosis by TMDU experts, taking advantage of Japanese knowledge and technology, and thus creating a precedent in terms of diagnosis and effective treatment for colorectal cancer.



State of endoscopic guidance at the University of Chile



Representatives from the University of Chile paying a courtesy call on President Yoshizawa, TMDU

## Tokyo Institute of Technology & University of California, San Diego MoBI (Mobile Brain/Body Imaging-) Joint Workshop

On November 22, 2016, the University of California in San Diego (UCSD) and Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) held a joint workshop on Mobile Brain/Body Imaging (MoBI), a research field for revealing how our brains control our movements by measuring brain activity. The workshop came out of a joint research program by UCSD and Tokyo Tech, and was made possible with support from the JSPS 'Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers.' The purpose of this workshop was to provide researchers with an opportunity to share their ideas and research progress since joining the program in 2015.

The workshop started with warm greetings from both universities' representatives, followed by an introduction about the relationship between computational neuroscience and MoBI. After the introduction, five researchers including two guest speakers explained the details of the MoBI project.

Hosted by the project members, three sessions on the results of electroencephalogram (EEG) analyses took place — brain activity when

people juggle, try to control their balance during a handstand, and move their fingers. The two guest speakers talked about the results of EEG analyses while doing exercise, and the world's fastest Brain-Computer Interface. The research done at UCSD was introduced at the workshop at Tokyo Tech in September. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss how to promote collaborative research between the two universities and how they would proceed with their study in the remaining term of the program.

After the sessions, UCSD researchers showed the participants around the MoBI lab, where they tried experimental instruments for gathering data on how people navigate using their hearing.

On the previous day of the MoBI workshop, members of Tokyo Tech visited Biocom and CONNECT, both of which have a close relationship with UCSD. The purpose of the visit was to learn the process of developing knowledge clusters and ways to support the growth of venture corporations in San Diego. Furthermore, it was a great opportunity to discuss the policy on Tokyo Tech's outreach activities. We all appreciate the support and cooperation of JSPS on this project.



University of California, San Diego SCCN  
Prof. Scott Makeig



Testing: Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Assistant Prof. Susumu Kajiwara

## Overseas Teaching Practicum by Hiroshima University Graduate Students in Elementary/Secondary Schools in the US



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

Seiji Fukazawa, Professor, Graduate School of Education, Hiroshima University



The Hiroshima University Global Partnership School Center (GPSC) has been holding an overseas teaching practicum annually for education-major graduate students to develop into globally-minded future teachers. Since 2006, this project has been assigned as an elective subject in the curriculum of the Graduate School of Education and this year marked the 10-year anniversary of this project. So far nearly 100 students have joined in the teaching practicum in the US, conducting lessons in English in four local public schools in North Carolina. This year, eight students and five faculty participated in teaching at three local elementary/middle schools in Greenville, NC, supported by Dr. Sandra Warren, professor at East Carolina University, a partner university under a Mutual Exchange Agreement with Hiroshima University.

This project has the following three aims for participants: 1) to develop practical instructional competence by teaching pupils with different cultural backgrounds; 2) to enhance abilities in developing teaching materials through hands-on teaching experiences in English; and 3) to acquire the abilities to design, implement and evaluate programs for promoting global partnership. Teaching by Japanese students has always been a topic of interest for local media, TV and newspa-

pers. One lesson regarding traditional Japanese footwear, or 'geta', was covered by The Daily Reflector, a local newspaper, with the title "Students 'geta' kick out of Japan." Discussion with university educators and local school teachers further helped to broaden young Japanese teachers' global awareness, understanding of American and Japanese culture, and confidence in teaching in English. Later, the project was followed by cross-cultural field study visits to the NC State Capitol in Raleigh and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The researchers at GPSC have been working on various independent and collaborative projects to strengthen the global partnership between Japan and the United States. To continue and develop the outcomes of this project, the GPSC received funding from the US-Japan Foundation. The project continues to develop and foster educational leaders who can promote global partnership in the future, whether they be students, teachers or other educators. With globalization proceeding at such a rapid pace, there is an urgent need for the development of more programs like this one. We believe that developing leaders capable of global impact will contribute to the realization of a global support system for world peace.

## Hiroshima University's Joint Activities with Mexican Universities

Center for Collaborative Research & Community Cooperation

Hiroshima University



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

Hiroshima University (HU) has taken steps to strengthen international exchange with universities in Mexico, in a wide range of fields including industry-academia-government collaboration. As part of our effort to promote international relationships, we had several joint activities in Mexico this February.

On February 7-8 2017, HU co-hosted a joint seminar regarding alternative energy and environmental protection with the Institution Politécnico Nacional (IPN), a national university of science and engineering located in Mexico City. During the seminar, our Professors Takayuki Ichikawa (Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences) and Satoshi Nakai (Institute of Engineering) gave an oral presentation on their specialties. In addition, Professor Toru Takashina (Institute of Engineering) talked about recent student exchange activities, while Professor Naotaka Hiram (Center for Collaborative Research & Community Cooperation) introduced solutions to environmental challenges in Latin American countries, including training Latin American sewage facility staff in Hiroshima, and conducting environmental surveys on water quality in the Dominican Republic. We also had a researcher from Mayekawa, a Japanese company manufacturing industrial refrigeration compressors, who talked about alternative fluorocarbons as a guest speaker. The 250 seat venue was almost at full capacity. After the seminar, there was an active exchange of views between HU and IPN professors and students, supporting the formation of new relationships for collaborations in the future. On February 28, HU and IPN signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a deeper, organizational-level connection. The signing ceremony took place at IPU, where Professor Mitsuo Ochi, President of HU,

and Professor Enrique Fernandez Fassnacht, General Director of IPN signed the agreement.

On February 9-10, HU also co-hosted a joint seminar regarding how industrial activities affect the environment, with the University of Guanajuato, a partner university of HU. In addition to the HU speakers from the previous seminar held at IPN, we also had guest speakers from Fujita Co., Ltd, a Japanese construction company, and the state government of Guanajuato. Their approaches to environmental protection in the construction field were introduced. On March 1, the "Hiroshima Guanajuato Centre" was established at the University of Guanajuato as our base in Mexico. HU President Dr. Ochi and representatives from Guanajuato University attended the opening ceremony. Furthermore, HU will be hosting the 3rd Japan • Mexico Rectors' Summit scheduled for November 30, 2017 in Hiroshima City.

With all of these developments, we expect further progress in Japan-Mexico academic exchange, including the exchange of students and researchers between HU, IPN, and the University of Guanajuato.



Panel discussion at Guanajuato University

## JSPS STAFF VOICES

### Tips from the Local Staff: Spring has sprung!

#### And other useful spring-related phrases

Spring has sprung. There's something in the air, and it's not just pollen.

Feeling like you have a spring in you step lately? Why not try a few of these spring-related phrases in your next conversation with your co-workers:

**Spring has sprung.** This light, poetic phrase means that spring has come. It is a fun play on the word 'spring,' which can mean, among other things, the season between winter and fall, or the verb, 'to spring,' which can mean both to jump forward suddenly or to arise from. 'Sprung' is the past tense of the verb 'to spring,' and is cleverly used here to indicate that spring has come.

**Spring fever.** That feeling of euphoria when the snow has melted (Bay Area translation: when the rain has stopped) and you are giddy with the possibility of actually seeing the sun. With every layer of clothing you are able to shed before leaving the house, spring fever gets stronger. Word of caution: if you miss more than one week of work due to spring fever, be sure to see a doctor before you get fired.

**Spring forward.** Daylight saving time, though it has its critics, was originally introduced as an energy-saving policy. Now, it just means it's lighter, longer. Clocks are set forward one hour on the second Sunday in March, and back on the first Sunday in November. For most of us, that's hard to remember, so the expression "spring forward, fall back," was coined to help people avoid confusion.

**Spring cleaning.** Though Japanese custom mandates major housecleaning before the new year, the American tradition is to clean house in the spring. The rain has stopped, windows can be opened, and things you hang actually dry. It's perfect cleaning weather.

**March Madness.** The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament, a.k.a. "March Madness" or the "Big Dance." The tournament defines spring sport excitement, with 68 teams competing for one championship title. You'll hear co-workers talking about their "brackets," or their personal predictions of the final rankings 68 teams. Many offices or circles of friends even design complex wagering systems in which they bet on who will win.

**Spring in your step.** Walking with confidence, energy, and happiness. You may have a spring in your step after nailing an interview or getting that second date. Or, when you're at the height of spring fever.

**Spring training.** Major League Baseball has two pre-season baseball training camps, or "spring training." All 30 MLB teams participate in these spring camps, with 15 teams each in the East Coast "Grapefruit League" in Florida, and the West Coast "Cactus League" in Arizona. Fans can get tickets to see their team before the official start of baseball in April.

**Spring back.** A highly visual expression that describes quick and complete recovery, e.g. from a sports injury. It is associated with a high-energy return to action after a period of inactivity, as in the phrases 'spring back into action,' and 'spring back into shape.'

**April showers bring May flowers.** Another phrase derived from poetry, the literal imagery is as-is: after the rain, flowers bloom. Yet the phrase is also one of encouragement – New life, beauty and energy follow even the darkest, most difficult times.

By Lauren Nakasato, Liaison Officer



## My Impression of Life in the US: School Spirit

In my year living in the US, one of the biggest sources of culture shock for me was school spirit.

You can see many people wearing clothes with their school logo and putting logo stickers on their car license plate.

We have schools spirit items also in Japan, however they are hardly seen except for in the student store or at school events.

However, what surprised me most is that not only students but also children, adults and even dogs wear clothes showing their school spirit in daily life.

Additionally, there is a lot of school spirit at intercollegiate sports games. People root for their school team as if the team is professional.

I had a chance to watch a college football

game with supportive fans. Their enthusiastic cheer was moving.

Since this experience at the game, I came to like this culture.

By Marie TANI, International Program Associate



## UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

**Application deadline to JSPS Tokyo Office:**

**April 24 - 28, 2017 \***

**Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers**

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/application.html>

- Standard (12-24 months)

**Invitation Fellowship for Overseas Researchers**

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/apply17.html>

- Short-term (14-60 days)

- Short-term S (7-30 days)

\*The deadline is for the host institution to submit the application to JSPS Tokyo0; generally, applicants must submit documents to host institution 1-2 months prior to this deadline.

## OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

### Farewell Messages from Our International Program Associates

#### Marie Tani (Oita University)

This year passed by in an instant. I gained many precious experiences in my job training at JSPS San Francisco.

One of my main jobs here was accounting and I came to have a deep understanding of the tax system and payment methods in the U.S. I was also in charge of organizing gatherings and supporting the activities of Japanese researchers which gave me great opportunities to design projects from zero and meet many researchers. When I got lots of positive feedback from researchers, I could enjoy the feeling of accomplishment.

As far as my daily life, it was filled with inspirational moments. I enjoyed everything from vast land-

scapes to small talk with local people. Running in marathons with peers was one of the best memories.

If I didn't get this unique chance, I couldn't have had any of those experiences. I would really like to thank everyone who I worked with and supported me.



#### Yuki Hashimoto (the University of Tokyo)

An incredible number of things went on in just one year. Promotion of fellowship programs, supporting the activities of the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA), organizing workshops for Japanese university administrative staff, co-organizing symposiums with the Center for Japanese Studies, UC Berkeley, editing this newsletter, and many other projects.

There were too many to write down here, but all of them were new experiences for me. One of the most impressive experiences was planning the 10th anniversary JUNBA symposium in September. Organizing such a big important event was challenging but very worthwhile. Of course, I also

had a lot of good times outside of work and went to various places in my off time. I hope I can make use of my experience here after going back to the University of Tokyo in April.

I genuinely appreciate all the support I received from everyone for this opportunity.



# JSPS

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