



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 FY2008.

JSPS San Francisco Office marks its 5th anniversary of establishment in May 2008. The 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 Office has given special focus to the following three areas, "**holding colloquia with academic institutions**", "**introducing JSPS Fellowship Programs to promote scientific exchange**" and "**creating a network amongst Japanese fellows**".

JSPS San Francisco Office is now taking on a much bigger role in the development of good collaborative relationships between Japan and other countries.

Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. Seven Japanese universities have opened their branch offices in the San Francisco Bay Area to stimulate the academic exchanges 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 San Francisco Office serves the administrative function of JUNBA.

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.



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THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

JSPS San Francisco Office Welcomes Two New Members

JSPS San Francisco office welcomes new Program Coordinators

Ippei Koya, as Program Coordinator,

oversees accounting affairs, coordinates gatherings and visits by scholars and renews our website at JSPS San Francisco Office. Since he majored in comparative culture at his university, he has backpacked around 23 countries. Having mainly visited countries in Asia and Europe so far, the US is a new frontier for him. Now he really loves the weather, blue skies and the open-minded people here in California. He had been working for international students at the University of Tsukuba for years



and just before coming to San Francisco, he worked at the Overseas Fellowship Division at JSPS Tokyo Headquarters for a year. He is a specialist at dealing with foreign students and post-doc fellows. Though he is a newcomer here, drawing on his plenty of international experience and geeky computer skills, we expect him to improve our services. Do a good job and happy traveling, Ippei!

Hiroataka Morita, as Program Coordinator

for administrative affairs, has been with the JSPS San Francisco Office for 3 months. Before coming to San Francisco, he worked at JSPS headquarters in the Research Cooperation Division 2 where he coordinated joint events and programs with Germany, France and the U.S. With these experi-

ences he learned about organizing events, visitor hospitality and the funding and review systems for researchers. With an economics degree from his University and experience at an investment division in a Japanese bank for some years, he is now very interested in the structure and the trend of international collaboration among industry and universities. At the same time he would like to investigate the scientific trend in the United States from a broad and detailed perspective. Of course he also would like to visit many places across the country as he can.



Have a lot of fun and Good luck Hiro!



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EVENTS OF SPRING 2008

JSPS SF Represents at 41st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California



For the 5th 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 in Hotel Kabuki during the first two-day celebration of the 41st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

San Francisco was sunny on both April 12th and 13th, and we were all able to enjoy a beautiful Cherry Blossom Festival. The Japan Pavilion, though inside Hotel Kabuki, still had a good circulation of visitors. We were all given the opportunity to advertise ourselves with the Pavilion to draw more people down to Hotel Kabuki.

Inside the Imperial Ball Room B at Hotel Kabuki, the JSPS staff prepared a booth 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 the activities of JSPS and requested information about the fellowship programs. Some 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, Ippei Koya and Hiroataka Morita, to speak about JSPS in English. We look forward to this opportunity again next year.

2nd Young JSPS Fellow Forum in JSPS San Francisco Office

JSPS San Francisco Office held the 2nd Young JSPS Fellow Forum at the JSPS Office on May 30th. At this time, seven selected Japanese young researchers specializing in Neuroscience from UC San Francisco, UC Berkeley and Stanford University gathered to exchange information and to discuss the latest research in Neuroscience.



Mr. Masaaki Sato (UCSF, former JSPS Fellow 2005-2007) and the other young researchers, including two current JSPS Fellows and one former JSPS Fellow, spoke eagerly about their research field. Three researchers also reported their latest research results and discussed specific fields of Neuroscience.



This Forum is aimed at promoting more discussions about specific research issues among young Japanese researchers in the west coast of America. We have decided to hold this forum about Neuroscience on a regular basis.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMER 2008

The 9th Gathering of Japanese Fellows June 27th 17:00-19:00

JSPS San Francisco Office will hold the 9th Gathering of JSPS Fellows on June 27th. 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 networking among these researchers. We have had 8 gatherings in the past, and this time, we will hold the gathering in Berkeley, California. It is a free buffet style party. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers' participation.

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KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

Kyushu University "Thank you" Evening

Kyushu University and its California Office held "Thank you" Evening on June 3rd, 2008 at Santa Clara Marriott Hotel with over 120 people attended.

Kyushu University, since opening its California Office in April, 2004, started strong activities to educate and encourage students on the basis of entrepreneurship and internationalism spirits unique to Silicon Valley. Kyushu University owes people of Silicon Valley to a large degree, because over 50 lecturers and 30 panelists helped it in the three programs it has been carrying out since 2004. The President of Kyushu University, Prof. Tisato Kajiyama, has long been wishing to express his thanks to all those who helped the University. At the occasion of establishing new Office in San Jose and sending a young staff there, the University and the President were happy to have this chance to thank people of Silicon Valley.



There are three programs which Kyushu university through it CA Office has been carrying out. The first program is QREP, Kyushu University Robert Huang Entrepreneurship Program, which is a one week program in Silicon Valley to teach students in entrepreneurship, self-establishment and understanding of multiplicity of cultures. The fund that was created based on a large contribution by one of the graduates, Mr. Robert Huang, President of Synnex Corporation, Fremont, CA, and by many alumni, has been used to subsidize the programs.

The second program is a distant lecture series. The "Let's be a Leader" series which started from last October were contributed by 13 renowned lecturers mainly from Silicon Valley. The "Let's Learn business" series to start from this late June are also contributed by 5 lecturers from Silicon Valley to teach what it means to start-up a company or to start a new business in an existing company.

The third program is an English Study Program. It is a 4 weeks program at Monterey Institute of International Studies, in Monterey, CA. All the students will stay at American families during the study. It was highly evaluated by the students last year and the attendance increased from 9 to 30 this year. During the program, a field trip is planned to Silicon Valley to visit companies in order to practice their English capabilities.



President Prof. Kajiyama

The "Thank you" Evening started with an Opening Remarks by Prof. Masato Matsuo, Director of CA Office, who explained the three programs mentioned above and expressed his gratitude to the audience. Then, Prof. Tisato Kajiyama, President of Kyushu University, gave his address, "Thank you, Silicon Valley". He emphasized that the Silicon Valley programs have been all well received by students and highly regarded by the University. He deeply thanked all the people who had been helping, contributing and supporting Kyushu University. He also mentioned that the University awarded main lecturers with the name of "Kyushu University CA Fellow" to express its gratitude.



The address was followed by greetings by Honorable Yasumasa Nagamine, Consul-General of Japan who is one of the Kyushu University CA Fellows, Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida, Mayor of Fukuoka City, Mr. Yuji Ide, President of JUNBA and Director of SV Office of Kagoshima University and Mr. Robert Huang, Founder of QREP and the President of Synnex Corporation.



After the greetings, Prof. Hiroto Yasuura, Dean of Faculty of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University, gave a lecture about his research entitled, "Dependable VLSI for Social Information Infrastructure". This lecture was so informative and directly related to one's everyday life that many questions were raised during the Q & A session.

The event continued to a reception held at the Hotel Ballroom with a toast by Mr. Nagamine. Participants enjoyed foods and association with other participants till late time.

Prof. Matsuo, Director of CA Office, commented that he was very pleased with having able to hold such a chance to thank people of Silicon Valley, which was a long due. He was very glad to receive an active support by Prof. Kajiyama and University and, most of all, to have so many people attended and expressed supports to Kyushu University. He also thanked to Mr. Nagamine, Consul-General of Japan, and Mayor of Fukuoka City, and other guests for attending and giving a warm encouragement.

The reception was closed with a remark of Prof. Masaharu Yanagihara, Vice President in charge of International Affairs.



BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2008" was held at Tohoku University US Office on April 9th.



On April 9th, JUNBA held its 2nd general assembly meeting at Tohoku University US Office. The purpose of such a meeting is to report on JUNBA's affairs broadly over the course of an entire year. This was the 2nd general assembly meeting for JUNBA, bringing together about 30 participants. The meeting started with remarks from JUNBA president Mr. Ide. Mr. Ide was newly selected as the president of JUNBA by the board of directors of JUNBA. Following the opening remarks, the officers of JUNBA introduced 1)a report on JUNBA's affairs of 2007, 2)amendments to JUNBA regulations, 3)a plan for JUNBA's affairs of 2008.

After the meeting, a reception was held. During the reception, the participants of varying avocations stuck around to exchange information and to newly network with each other. 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.

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

JUNBA Website <http://www.jspsusa-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.



New President of JUNBA Mr. Ide
(Director, SV Office of Kagoshima Univ.)



TUS San Francisco office
東京理科大学サンフランシスコ事務所

Mr. Katsunori Tsunoda



Mr. Katsunori Tsunoda is the 2nd deputy chief of the SF Office. He got his Master of Science Degree in Chemistry at TUS in 1996. He was

an assistant professor from 1998 to 2004. He had been studying on excimer laser ablation of organic materials. He had specifically been investigating the mechanism of the laser ablation of biopolymer containing water, such as cornea.¹⁾ He had also been investigating the purification process for carbon nanotubes. He found

the novel method for the purification of raw carbon nanotubes using gelatin in 2002.²⁾

He got transferred to the technology licensing organization (RIDAI SCITEC) as a coordinator in 2004. RIDAI SCITEC is divided into two divisions: an Intellectual Property Division and a TLO Division. Recently, RIDAI SCITEC released the technology seeds handbooks named "Tokyo University of Science Technology Information". (see Fig. 1) The handbooks are separated into three parts as follows; life science field, nanotechnology & materials field, and environment & energy field. The handbooks are a very important tool to introduce the research potential of TUS to the universities and companies in the bay area.

In 2008, Mr. Tsunoda got transferred to the SF Office. His mission is to progress the international strategy of TUS for edu-

cation and research in the bay area. Now, he is dedicating all his strength to the risk management for the students of TUS in the U.S., and the network construction between TUS and universities & companies in the bay area.

1) K. Tsunoda, D. Kumaki, T. Takahashi, H. Yajima, T. Ishii, and Hiroshi Itoh, Applied Surface Science, **197-198**, 641-644, 2002.

2) T. Takahashi, K. Tsunoda, H. Yajima, and T. Ishii, Chemistry Letters, 690-691, 2002.



Fig.1 Tokyo University of Science Technology Information

First anniversary of the establishment of Tokyo University of Science (TUS) San Francisco Office.

Tokyo University of Science (TUS) San Francisco Office (SF office) was established in collaboration with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) within the JSPS San Francisco Center on May 21st 2007. The TUS SF office celebrated its first anniversary on May 21st. Its activities in 2007 are summarized in table 1 (next page), and they have been progressing smoothly.

The 2nd deputy chief of TUS SF office is Katsunori Tsunoda who arrived from Japan at the end of March. The mission of Mr. Tsunoda is to promote the international strategy of TUS for education and research in the bay area.

TUS continues to promote international collaboration in education and research with academic institutions that include three University of California campuses (UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara) and Ohio State University. The SF Office has been providing risk management and overseas study management for TUS overseas students who are participating in one-year-study programs in University of California campuses as well as for TUS students who have been sent to UC Santa Cruz or Portland State University under the summer short-term English study program. Moreover, the SF office is taking charge of efforts to actively develop international education and research collaboration programs with major research-oriented universities in North America through communication and data collection within North America.

TUS will set up double degree programs with 2 University of California campuses in the bay area. The programs are designed to advance the scientific skills of students so that they would fulfill the requisite professional requirements of their chosen science fields.

The SF office has also been progressively engaging in active communication and data collection in Silicon Valley, which is the center of industry-academia-government collaboration in the United States. In this way, the SF office has been participating in joint international research between industry and academia as well as in the global development of technical transfer.



Fig.2 Summer program in UCSC



Fig.3 Corporate visit in the Silicon Valley



Fig.4 JUNBA 2008

Activity report

2007	
May	+ Established Office + NAFSA 2007 Annual Conference & EXPO + Information exchange with UCSC
June	+ Became a member of JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area) + Started activity on international education, research, and technology transfer.
July	+ Networking with alumnae and alumni in the bay area + Networking with companies based in Silicon Valley
August	+ Summer Programs at Portland State University and University of California in Santa Cruz.
September	+ Relocation
October	+ Networking with Fortune 500 companies in Silicon Valley
November	+ Reunion between students at UCSC and alumnae and alumni
December	+ Corporate and University visit in Silicon Valley
2008	
January	+ JUNBA 2008 The 2nd JUNBA Summit, Symposium and Technology Fair
February	+ Workshop in Boston and New York
March	+ 6 students finished their one-year-study programs at University of California in Santa Cruz + Successor arrival + New students starting their one-year-study programs at University of California in Santa Cruz 8 students in Davis 6 students

Do you know TUS?

Mr. Teruhisa Niwa

Teruhisa Niwa was the 1st TUS San Francisco Office staff.

He came to San Francisco on May 21st 2007 and returned to Japan at the end of March, 2008.

Now, He is working at the international division of TUS Kagurazaka Campus. His office promotes the internationalization of TUS. For example, they are promoting the one year study abroad program, short term summer program, and the double degree program. They will also develop more programs in the near future. On May 7th, the Int'l division moved to the Kagurazaka Ryukohtei Building which is along the Kagurazaka street. We newly opened the international room in our office which every foreign students can use whenever they like, for example meet with their friends, study for themselves.

By the way, do you know the Kagurazaka? I think you don't know about Kagurazaka, so I will explain.

History of Kagurazaka

- In the 14th century, Taiko, who was a powerful family, built the Ushigome-Castle near Kosho-Temple. This is the start of Kagurazaka development.

- In the Edo period, Tadakatsu Sakai who was a respectable old man got his house on the top of slope. Around 1628, a moat of Edo castle, called Ushigome-mitsuke, was built at the bottom of slope. The road between the top of the slope and the bottom of the slope was constructed. This road is Kagurazaka.

- As I mentioned above, our office is now along the Kagurazaka.



TUS int'l division



International Room



Kagurazaka



Bishamonten



Wakamiya-shrine

Kagurazaka

Famous sightseeing spot

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Dr. Yo Omata

D.D.S. (Dentistry) Hokkaido University, Japan, 2004
 Visiting Scholar at Medical College of Georgia, U.S. 2004-2006
 Ph.D. (Dentistry) Hokkaido University, Japan, 2007
 JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (PD) at National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology 2007-
 Research Scholar at University of California Davis, U.S. 2008-

Yo Omata's Interview

Dr. Yo Omata went to Hokkaido University Graduate School after she got her dental degree. In the fall of the first year of graduate school, she went to Medical College of Georgia for her Ph.D. work and in the next year she came back, she got a Ph.D. in dentistry. After that, she spent one year at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology as a JSPS Research Fellow and in April 2008 she came to UC Davis.

She has been studying cellular mechanism of oxidative stress. Oxidative stress is currently a primary focus of medical therapeutic research. Her dissertation was on metal compounds as bacterial thioredoxin reductase inhibitors. She also researched the measurement of antioxidant capacity at the Human Stress Signal Research Center, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. After she moved to the Department of Nutrition at UC Davis, she started her project on the effect of flavanol on cardiovascular diseases.

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

I think everybody has similar answers for this question. The U.S. is the strongest country in the world in various fields and many foreigners, including Japanese come to this country to pursue their dream. Even though Japan is also playing a leading position in science and technology, the center of science is in English. Plus, the U.S. is a multi-racial country so there are many people from all over the world. Therefore working in the U.S. is almost like being in a scientific international conference all the time.

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

My first experience in an American lab was in Georgia. I was a Ph.D. exchange student at the Medical College of Georgia. The lab in Japan that I was working in was very small and old so my first impression of an American lab was that they are very nice and spacious. Also, there were technicians which we did not have in Japanese Universities. The biggest difference most Japanese researchers would notice after coming to an American lab is the working time. Japanese people try to stay in their lab as long as possible but most American people do not stay in their lab that long. In fact, I do not see anyone in the lab after 5 pm. My boss told me the dean did not care about how long he stayed in the lab but did care about how many papers he published. I think it's neat that they can spend more time with their family.

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

As for scientific levels, there is not much difference between Japan and the U.S. Therefore as I mentioned before, the best benefit is to use English. Conducting experiments in English and thinking everything in English is a plus because you do not have to translate when you write papers. There are many meetings in labs or on campus so you can get to listen to many presentations and you can experience giving your own presentation before attending an international conference. Also, working with various people is a great experience. Of course you can experience so many different things in your daily life as well.

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

For now, my dream is being a professor but as I consider myself still young, I do not want to limit my possibilities by deciding the details. I have been researching oxidative stress and it has always fascinated me so this would be my field. My goal is to find my specialty as a scientist and pass everything on to the next generation. As a scientist, I always wish to conduct research for all the people in the world to get the benefit. I would be very happy if any of my findings, including educating young people, leads to a solution for the problems in the world. As for advice for young researchers who would like to work abroad, I recommend them to have a high motivation to learn English because I assume they already have a high motivation in research. If you are working for a Japanese boss, you can conduct research without speaking English since you are there to research, not to learn English. However, enjoying life abroad is the best thing you can do and by doing this, you can grow up as a person and it will lead you to become a broad-minded scientist.

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

Mitsuo Oka's Interview

Dr. Mitsuo Oka conducts original research in the area of Space Plasma Physics. The aim of this area is to reveal the nature of plasmas, a hot and highly ionized gas that fills the space between planets and stars. For example, plasmas are continuously streaming out from the sun and cause various phenomena such as shock waves, geomagnetic storms and Aurora. They also produce energetically charged particles that are often hazardous to Earth-orbiting satellites and astronauts. Studying such energetic particles are becoming increasingly important not only because of the damage to human activities but also because energetic particles are known to be created everywhere in the universe. As a member of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) at the University of California Riverside, Dr. Oka keeps his effort to understand how energetic particles are created.

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

The main reason is because Prof. Gary P. Zank, an expert of energetic particles research, was in the U.S. There are many researchers in his group and they conduct various research. They create theories and perform computer simulations. His institution is undoubtedly the best place to study space plasma particularly if you are interested in theories and simulations. Another reason is because I lived in the U.S. during my junior high school years. During that time, my father was working for a motor company in North Carolina and I was able to meet some Japanese researchers in North Carolina State University. They were so



Dr. Mitsuo Oka

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MS: Earth and Planetary Science, The University of Tokyo, 2002
DS: Earth and Planetary Science, The University of Tokyo, 2005
 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Kwasan Observatory, Kyoto University, Japan, 2005-2007
 JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad, Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California Riverside,

nice that I thought, "When I grew up, I will do my own research in the U.S."

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

The largest difference is of course the cultural diversity. There are researchers from many countries such as Russia, China, India, and ... Japan. Other than that, I actually do not see much difference between the environment here and the lab I used to work for in Japan.

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

I can attend many conferences and workshops in the U.S. If I were in Japan, I would have to get so many funds to afford my overseas travels. Just recently, I have become a member of the American Astronomical Society so that I can increase the number of meetings I can attend. In fact, the U.S. is the leading country in the space physics community so there are many important meetings. By attending these meetings, I can meet various people and obtain the latest information on our research topic.

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

Space Plasma Physics is different from Astrophysics although there are similarities. My dream is to conduct Astrophysics research by making use of my experience in Space Plasma Physics. For young researchers, including myself, I think it is very important to widen their view by studying not only the field of their expertise but also adjacent fields.

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 news letter will be distributed to international sections in Japanese universities and subscribers in 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

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**Check out our website !
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