



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science San Francisco Volume XXX Issue June 2013



## Director Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2013.

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

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

JSPS SF has also concentrated all its strength in supporting the activities of Japanese universities in North America and Japanese university branch offices in the U.S.

In addition, JSPS SF facilitates in creating a network amongst Japanese postdoctoral fellows, administrative officers, and faculty of Japanese universities studying in the U.S.

As for holding symposia, JSPS SF will co-organize two joint-symposiums this fiscal year: "Early Modern Japanese Values and Individuality" with the University of British Columbia in August 2013 and "Architecture + Engineering: After 3.11" with University of California, Berkeley in February 2014.

Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. Ten Japanese universities have opened their branch offices in the San Francisco Bay Area, Riverside, and San Diego in California and one branch office has opened in Morrisville, North California to stimulate academic exchange between Japan and the U.S.

The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) was organized in August of 2006 to create more active academic exchange by collaborating with individual universities. JSPS San Francisco serves the administrative function of JUNBA and is in the process of organizing the eighth JUNBA Symposium and Summit, "JUNBA 2014", which will be held in the SF Bay Area on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

JSPS San Francisco strives to promote even further international scientific exchange between Japan and North America across a wide spectrum of research fields. In the near future, JSPS San Francisco will concentrate its activities in the West Coast of the U.S. along with Canada, and also expand its activities towards Mexico and South America. In this endeavor, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and support.



## Inside this issue:

<b>Director Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2013.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The Office Staff Switch:</b> Farewell to Ms.Ueta, Ms.Motooka Welcome Mr. Fujita, Ms. Aoki	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Spring 2013 Event</b> The 10th Meeting For University Administration Officers in the U.S	<b>4</b>
<b>Bay Area &amp; Japan Related News :</b> "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2013" "Oita university" "Kyoto University"	<b>5-7</b>
<b>INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S.</b> Dr. Hironori Okumura Dr. Takeshi Yokoyama	<b>8-9</b>



2001 Addison Street, Suite 260  
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

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

## THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

### Farewell to our Deputy Director, Toko Ueta!

Fulfilling her duties as Deputy Director for JSPS San Francisco, Toko Ueta set sail for Japan to work for the University of Tokyo again. Since she did everything she could both for work and fun, she felt no sorrow whatsoever despite her unchanged love for the U.S., and just had a few things to say.

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

A. We propelled our PR activities. In addition to our previous efforts, we visited more than 20 universities and held 8 information sessions as a team. And for me, public speech had been dreadful, but my English teacher coached presentation to me. I would have led 20 audience members to sound sleep on a good day, but with his help, I got their attention and laughter.

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

A. Eating is vital both to survive and embrace life. So don't stick to one restaurant, visit as many as you can; in the Bay Area, there are tons of excellent eateries that wait for you to savor their dishes. Not that I regret my (hundreds of) meals at In-N-Out.

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

A. Yosemite. You don't need an explanation, right?

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

A. It may sound like a cliché, but family and friends. As much as I love my colleagues here, I've missed the good old faces at Todai. Plus, I just can't wait to spoil my baby niece every way that pops up in my head.

**Q. How has living in the US changed you?**

A. I started taking ownership of my life. I had thought that so many things were beyond my control, but I had this revelation that I could adjust myself, and adjusting myself to circumstances means I have control. Long story short, I stopped whining and started taking responsibility for my own happiness. Wow, I sound like a self-motivation book.

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

A. Thank you very much for everything! All the people I worked with were a blessing to me; they made my job and my enjoyment here possible. I will try and be a person who deserves the blessing, and till then, I owe you a lot. Thanks so much!



Toko Ueta

### Farewell to our Adviser, Yoshiko Motooka!

Ms. Yoshiko Motooka has completed her stay in California for one year and three months as an Adviser to JSPS San Francisco.

During her stay, she mainly advised and supported the operations of JSPS SF and offered information regarding the current state of higher education in Japan at the JUNBA board meetings. Moreover, she did research on the educational and research systems in the U.S., and conducted interviews on university operations. She observed programs by MEXT and lectures by the Japanese university branch offices around the Bay Area as well.



Yoshiko Motooka

Her stay in California also reminded her on the importance of thinking for herself, having her own ideas and expressing them. This assignment as adviser required these skills and she is grateful for the opportunities to acquire and foster them. Additionally she is convinced again that seeing is believing: it is so important to see, hear and talk directly. Visiting and interviewing the universities in the U.S. became a great asset to her. Before coming to the U.S. she had no acquaintances at all, but now she is surrounded and supported by a large network of people. She really appreciates the support from the people she met and the staff of JSPS SF!

She will be transferred to a position related to international affairs at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). She wants to use the experiences she gained here to enhance her work after going back to Japan. At the same time, she wants to keep the balance of work and life, as she did in California.

From the JSPS staff, we appreciate your warm support on many points and we wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors!

## THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

### JSPS San Francisco Welcomes Two New Members

#### Yuji Fujita and Hisae Aoki, International Program Associate

Yuji FUJITA, joined our office as International Program Associate and is in charge of the accounting affairs and managing the JSPS SF website. He is also in charge of coordinating gatherings for faculty and administrative staff of Japanese universities which have overseas offices located throughout the United States. Last year he worked in the Overseas Fellowship Division at JSPS headquarters and was in charge of the invitation fellowship programs for research in Japan. Prior to that, he had been working for the Department of Research Promotion at University of Tsukuba, where he was engaged in creating support systems for researchers. He is interested in the outreach activities and systematic support concerning club activities in American universities, especially the relationship between the university and local communities. During his stay in San Francisco, he wants to improve his English skills, and would like to visit many beautiful university campuses in the U.S. He would also like to watch both NFL and college football games.



**Yuji Fujita**



**Hisae Aoki**

Hisae Aoki, also joined our office as International Program Associate and is in charge of administrative affairs for the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) along with coordinating gatherings for Japanese researchers and administrative staff of Japanese universities in the U.S. Last year she worked at JSPS headquarters in the International Program Department where she coordinated bilateral joint research programs and the JSPS Researcher Exchange Program in cooperation with overseas science-promotion organizations. Prior to that, she had been working for the Society-Academia Collaboration for Innovation division at Kyoto University, where she was mainly engaged in collaboration research agreements between companies and Kyoto University. She is interested in the career and staff development of the staff in U.S. universities, especially legal staff who deal with contract, compliance and other legal issues which the University may have. During her stay in San Francisco, she also wishes to improve her English skills, learn about American life and culture, and go sight-seeing around national parks in the U.S.

## Upcoming Event of Summer 2013

### JSPS and UBC (University of British Columbia) Joint Symposium

#### “Early Modern Japanese Values and Individuality”

JSPS and UBC are holding a joint symposium that will take place at the University of British Columbia in August. This symposium aims to revisit our understanding of the values of pre-industrial Japan, and how those values contributed to the emergence of today's Japan.

*DATE : August 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

*VENUE : Asian Center Auditorium, University of British Columbia*

*CO-ORGANIZER : University of British Columbia*

*Japan Society for the Promotion of Science*

*SPONSOR : Japan Foundation*

*FURTHER INFORMATION : <http://www.asia.ubc.ca/2013/05/03/23879/>*

## SPRING 2013 EVENT

### The 10th Meeting for University Administrative Officers in the U.S

JSPS San Francisco office held the 10th meeting for university administrative officers in the U.S. on May 31st.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network between administrative officers from Japanese universities. Participants at this gathering were from Hokkaido University, Tohoku University, Niigata University, University of Tsukuba, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, the University of Tokyo, Japan Art Council, University of Toyama, Kanazawa University, Kyoto University, Okayama University, Tottori University, Shimane University, Kyushu University, Nagasaki University, University of the Ryukyus, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Some of the participants have been staying in the U.S. as LEAP (Long-term Educational Administrators Program for International Exchange).



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

## Upcoming Event of Summer 2013

### Announcement of July 19

#### The 5th meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco office will hold the 5th meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S. on July 19 in Berkeley, CA.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide Japanese researchers in the U.S. with a good opportunity to share useful information, promote the exchange of research, not only in common but also distinct research fields, and support network-building among these researchers. We are looking forward to the attendance and participation of many researchers.

**DATE:** July 19 (Fri), 2013 4:30PM - 8:00PM

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

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

**See the website for full schedule and RSVP details:** <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/news/?p=1016>

## BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

### "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2013" was held on May 10th



President of JUNBA, Masato Matsuo

On May 10th, JUNBA held its 7th general assembly meeting at Hakone gardens. The purpose of this annual meeting is to broadly report on JUNBA's affairs over the course of an entire year. It brought together 33 participants. The meeting started with remarks from JUNBA president Mr. Matsuo, who also reported on JUNBA's affairs of FY2012 and presented a plan for FY2013.

In the second half of the meeting, Dr. Masatoshi KATO, Associate Professor, School of Economics, Kwansei Gakuin University and now a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, delivered a lecture titled "The economics of entrepreneurship: How to help develop new businesses". Through his engaging lecture, we learned about the importance of growing entrepreneurship and that the rate of new business formation in Japan is decreasing more rapidly than the rate abroad. Based on this situation, he offered suggestions on which businesses the government should fund that can create successful innovation. After the lecture, a lively question-and-answer session was held. A reception followed the meeting where the participants were able to exchange information and make new networks with each other.



Lecture by Dr. Kato

# 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**

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



### The research project "Leading edge of researches on gastrointestinal infectious diseases in the US and field investigation in Central America"

Oita University constructed the "Research Promotion Institute" in 2009, which focuses on supporting the important research projects fit for Oita University. Oita University set a goal of several important projects including a study on infectious diseases, especially *Helicobacter pylori* infection, the main causes of peptic ulcer diseases, stomach cancer and MALT lymphoma. Another important project is the establishment of international collaborative studies.

Among the international collaboration, Oita University has been practicing a project in cooperation with the Dominican Republic for more than 20 years. The Dominican Republic is a nation on an island in the Caribbean Sea and borders the nation of Haiti which occupies the western region of the island. Because insanity regions suffer high infection rates of *H. pylori*, regions such as the Dominican Republic are also assumed to have high infection rates of *H. pylori*. However, no extensive survey has been done so far.

In FY2010, we started the project entitled "Leading edge of researches on gastrointestinal infectious diseases in the US and field investigation in Central America" supported by the "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation" (JSPS). This project aims to support young researchers to brush up their skills through experiencing the most advanced basic and clinical studies in Baylor College of Medicine. Further, in the Dominican Republic, we intend to give delegates an opportunity of epidemiologic research for public health, which is scarce in Japan recently, and foster human resources who can promptly set up research bases abroad and perform necessary research. We would like to enhance practical ability to solve problems flexibly on the spot, as well as obtaining academically important findings.

→ [Next Page](#)

## BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



In March 2013, the program from "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation" was completed, and during the project, we could send three young researchers both to the Dominican Republic and Houston, TX. By participating in an international study project such as this, they developed as researchers possessing genuinely established personality and ability to cope with interdisciplinary studies. These dispositions are hard to obtain by simply staying in a laboratory in a chair unit and doing experiments. Most notably, two young researchers (Dr. Shun Iwatani and Dr. Hiroyuki Nagashima) decided to continue their research at Baylor College of Medicine. Prof. Yamaoka has kept a position at Baylor College of Medicine (Professor of Medicine-Gastroenterology); therefore the communication between the US and Japan is very smooth, and we have a weekly video conference with researchers in Oita

University, which stimulate the research minds of Oita University. In addition, we had planned to send medical students from Oita University to observe the laboratory at Baylor College of Medicine, and during the last three years, 2 students per year (a total of 6 students) had the experience of observing the laboratory during their 4th year for 1-2 weeks.

Currently, the outcomes of the projects are progressing and we are trying to renew it through the "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation" (JSPS) to further establish the project.

The project is not only limited to researchers now working at Oita University and we welcome contact with researchers who are interested in this project. In addition, Prof. Yamaoka has the RO1 grant from National Institute of Health (NIH) and is open to obtaining young researchers from all over the world. If there are questions/comments/requests about the project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact information;

Yoshio Yamaoka M.D., Ph.D.

Department of Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Oita University Faculty of Medicine

TEL: 81-97-586-5740, FAX: 81-97-586-5749

E-mail: [yyamaoka@oita-u.ac.jp](mailto:yyamaoka@oita-u.ac.jp) or [yyamaoka@bcm.edu](mailto:yyamaoka@bcm.edu)



At the office of Ministerio De Educacion Superior Ciencia y Tecnologia (MESCYT) (Ministry of Higher Education Sciences and Technology in English). We visited the MESCYT office on February 2013, and met with the minister (middle).



Michel E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)

Located in the Texas Medical Center, it is the biggest medical center in the world. Our laboratory is located on the third floor of VAMC.

## BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



### AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto

AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center on March 20–22, 2013. The event was held by Kyoto University in collaboration with the University Technology Transfer Association (UNITT), and was made possible through the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan.

The Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) is a nonprofit association of university technology transfer offices, research organizations, hospitals and companies that license from universities, research organizations and hospitals based in the U.S. AUTM Asia is a platform for academic research institutions, industry, technology transfer professionals, and entrepreneurs to meet and discuss current issues related to commercializing technology, with a particular focus on the characteristics of the Asian region.

The first day of the conference began with a welcome address by Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, president of Kyoto University. The address was followed by keynote speeches by Mr. Hideki Niwa, vice-minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Mr. Keiichi Kawakami, deputy director-general for Industrial Science and Technology and Environment of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); Mr. Sean P. Flanigan, president of AUTM; Dr. Tadashi Matsunaga, president of the University Technology Transfer Association (UNITT); and Dr. Keisuke Makino, president of AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto.

The three-day conference included eighteen seminar sessions on topics such as venture trends, license negotiation, and R&D trends. Exhibition booths operated by law firms and other companies provided attendees with information regarding business and R&D activities, and also provided licensing opportunities. The conference seminar featured various professionals engaged in the commercialization of university research, and provided an arena for not only the speakers and moderators, but also the attendees, to share their experience and knowledge.

The event was a pronounced success, drawing over 600 participants. AUTM Asia 2014 will be held at the Grand Hyatt Taipei hotel in Taiwan on April 9–11, 2014.

Official website for AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto:

<http://www.autm-kyoto.jp/>



President Matsumoto's welcome address



## INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S



### Dr. Hironori Okumura

**2007: B.S., Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Kyoto University**

**2009: M.S., Electronic Science and Engineering,, Kyoto University**

**2009-2012: JSPS Research Fellow (DC1)**

**2012: Ph.D., Electronic Science and Engineering, Kyoto University**

**2012-present: JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Materials Department, University California Santa Barbara**

Hironori Okumura is working in the Materials Department at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). He received his M.S, and Sc. D degrees in electronic science and engineering from Kyoto University. He worked on the material science of high-quality single-crystal aluminum nitride (AlN) under the supervision of Prof. Tsunenobu Kimoto. He studied high-resolution TEM observation of AlN at NCEM at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL). His interest is crystal growth and electrical characterization of III-nitride materials (AlN, GaN, and BN) for high-power electronic devices.

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

It is because the UCSB Nitrides group is one of the biggest research centers for growth and device characteristics of III-nitride semiconductors. This group mainly consists of four professors; S. Nakamura, J. Speck, U. Mishra, and S. DenBaars. They cover not only fundamental research but also optical and electrical device applications, and are leaders in the field. I believed that my knowledge and experience would dramatically increase by working at UCSB.

To put it more precisely, in Kyoto University, I investigated defect structures in AlN by transmission electron microscopy (TEM), leading to an achievement of AlN heteroepitaxial films with the highest crystalline quality. The AlN films showed new material and optical properties, but I could

not make a device because of our lack of experience. I wished to make the device using these films and to let my view broaden more. For me, UCSB is the most suitable place to fulfill my wish and to develop myself further.

#### **Q2: What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?**

The most impressive point about it is research collaboration. The research collaboration at the Materials Department in UCSB is very popular. Many labs, including the former four professors, have a good relationship with each other. Thanks to the great research collaboration, the research field of the Nitrides group covers a broad range: simulation, crystal growth, defect evaluation, device fabrication, electric, optic and magnetic characterizations, and so on. As the labs are free of barriers, I often do not know who belongs to which lab.

Sometimes, we encounter a difficulty in the project. We ask to discuss it with the supervisor, but cannot do it soon because of his busy schedule. The students at UCSB get friendly with each experimental apparatus, and discuss actively with friends in various labs. They help and teach each other by exploiting their different specialties. If I don't know something, a friend of a friend in another lab will let me know. We can proceed with our projects without the supervisor's advice.

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

My view was much broadened. In basic research, interest lies in achieving the world's first results. Research projects showing the first demonstration and top data are very exciting. I feel that most Jap-

anese engineers improve the prior data little by little, achieving the world's first results. On the other hand, researchers in the U.S. put ideas into action. In losing interest, they quickly switch projects even if they preceded the field in the world. When I first heard about my project, I thought it was a crazy idea. I think that an extraordinary idea can produce excellent results. I find such experiments gratifying. The professors in the UCSB Nitrides group have their own companies. I could obtain useful information of product developments as well as research. I would like Japanese students to know that individuals who hold a Ph. D. are treated very well by companies in the U.S.

#### **Q4: What is your dream? Do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?**

My dream is to work with exceptional colleagues worldwide and to make innovative products. In my Ph. D, I developed plans where I studied the basics of research and became an international researcher in my 20's, so I would like to achieve the level of an excellent researcher in my 30's ( I am now looking for such a position that will allow me to achieve excellent results). Using those results, I wish to make unprecedented products in the future. Working with excellent colleagues is very exciting and fun, therefore I want to pursue my dream with such colleagues.

You may study without going abroad, but if you do research abroad, you will get more chances of expanding your perspective, more pleasure, and more friends. Do not care about your English. Do not care about money. Do not care about the uncertainty of your future. These are not big problems to work abroad. Just have a fun!

## INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S



### Mr. Takeshi Yokoyama

2008: B.S. Faculty of Science, Kyoto University

2010: B.A. Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University

2012: M.A. Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

2012 - present: Ph.D. Student, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

2012 - present: JSPS Research Fellow (DC1)

2013: VISIT Intern Student, Department of Asian Languages and Literature, University of Washington

My name is Takeshi Yokoyama. I am a Ph.D. student at Kyoto University and I am studying Indian Buddhism, focusing on Abhidharma, or Buddhist scholasticism. Since 2012, I have been a JSPS research fellow and now I am staying at the University of Washington for one year as a Visiting Intern Student in order to receive special instruction from Prof. Collett Cox.

#### **Q 1. Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?**

Buddhist studies is an international field and the United States has excellent scholars. The University of Washington is one of the important research sites for Buddhist studies in the United States. Prof. C. Cox, my supervisor, is a world leading scholar in Abhidharma studies, and I am staying at UW in order to receive special instruction from her for my dissertation research. There are other students and researchers, who study Abhidharma under her instruction as well, and it is an exciting experience for me to have private seminars with them. UW has another world leading scholar, Prof. Richard Salomon, who studies Gāndhārī Buddhist Manuscripts. Receiving instruction from Prof. Cox, I fortunately got an opportunity to experience Gāndhārī studies, which was a completely unknown field to me. With specialists in both Abhidharma and Gāndhārī materials, UW has been a very advantageous research site for Early Bud-

dhist studies. It is my great pleasure to have an opportunity to do my research in such a great environment.

#### **Q 2. What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?**

A key theme for the research activities in the United States is "hard work." Under the well-managed tight schedule, students and researchers do their job so eagerly. Their activities are not limited to only obligations, but they also organize private seminars and develop themselves through active discussions. They are never afraid of diversity and are always engaged in open communication. These characteristics in the research activities are those of the American society itself, and keep this country in the highest academic position in the world. However, seeing the students run about from study to boy- or girlfriend, from part-time job to weekend activity, sometimes I cannot help wondering where their powers come from. Physically and mentally they are tough, like heroes in the Hollywood movies.

#### **Q 3. What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?**

The Abhidharma instructions from Prof. Cox and experience of the Gādhārī studies under Prof. Salomon are a direct advantage for my studies. In addition to this, doing research in a foreign country makes it possible for me to realize the fact that I have been in the Japanese academic tradition. No scholar is completely free from cultural restrictions such as language or background. Until now, I have observed Buddhism unconsciously in the Japanese

academic tradition. However, the different tradition in the United States shows me new aspects of Buddhist studies. It extends my view points and sometimes forces me to improve my understanding. Not being afraid of changes, I would like to observe these new aspects and reach a higher understanding.

#### **Q 4. What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?**

My aim is to understand precisely Buddhist thought through philological studies, and to evaluate its value in the modern world. Today, science technologies promise us comfortable and efficient lives. When we receive their direct merits, Buddhist thought sometimes seems to be useless. However, we have to remember the fact that Buddhist thought has survived in different cultures for more than twenty centuries. The Buddhist sources still show the unchangeable human suffering and the way to free ourselves from it. Buddhist thought is never fading. How should we explain this contradiction? That is an important task for me.

I feel regret to hear that recently Japanese students are somewhat reluctant to do research abroad. Of course, when you do research abroad, you have to overcome some practical matters such as language or costs. However it gives you the chance to get to know the diversity and the possibility of the world. That is truly valuable in life. Raise your eyes and take a step forward. The world and its people are waiting for you!