



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

## San Francisco Office

2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 920 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

### The 1st JUNBA ACADEMIA SUMMIT & SYMPOSIUM



# JUNBA

JAPANESE UNIVERSITY NETWORK IN THE BAY AREA



### The 1st JUNBA Academia Summit & Symposium in San Francisco

The "First Academia Summit and Symposium" of the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) was held at Consulate General of Japan and Stanford University on January 11th-12th.



Consul General Yamanaka

JUNBA comprises a network of Japanese universities with overseas offices in the San Francisco Bay Area. The consortium, which includes Japanese agencies, was organized to facilitate liaison among the member universities, while accelerating their internationalization initiatives. It also works to advance collaborative research and education between Japan and the US.

The Summit on the 11<sup>th</sup> began with remarks from JUNBA president Dr. Yoshikatsu Murooka and Mr. Makoto Yamana, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, followed by a keynote speech from JSPS executive director Mr. Isao Kiso. The first session, titled "International Strategy by Each Participating University," featured presentations by representatives of eight universities, followed by spirited discussions. The second session engaged the participants in an exchange of views on the universities' internationalization approaches and in drafting a Summit Declaration on advancing and supporting collaborative education and research and university-industry cooperation in the Bay Area and across the wider United States. The Summit Declaration was announced at a reception held that evening at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco.



The 1st Academia Summit at Conference Room, Consulate General of Japan



The 1st Symposium at Stanford University. Auditorium was full.

The Symposium venue at Stanford University on the 12<sup>th</sup> was themed "Nano-Material Science." Nine researchers from the US and Japan reported on state-of-the-art developments in their respective countries, with the ensuing



President Tisato Kajiyama, Kyushu university (left)

Q&A session spawning an energetic sharing of further information on research in the subject field. The concluding reception was held in a very relaxed atmosphere, conducive to a congenial exchange of views and the forming of new collegial networks among the participants.

### The "JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2007" was held in Los Gatos on March 7th.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, JUNBA held its first general assembly meeting at Kyushu University California Office. The purpose of such a meeting is to report on JUNBA's affairs broadly, over the course of an entire year. This time was the first meeting for JUNBA, bringing together about 50 participants. The meeting started with remarks from JUNBA president Dr. Yoshikatsu Murooka. Following the opening remarks, the officers of JUNBA introduced 1) JUNBA, 2) the officers and the Advisory Board of JUNBA, 3) the new members of JUNBA, 4) a report on JUNBA's affairs of 2006, 5) a plan for JUNBA's affairs of 2007. Above all, it was tremendous and gratifying that 48 individuals and 6 associations entered JUNBA as new members.

After the meeting, a reception which started with remarks from JUNBA Committee Member Mr. Yuji Muranaga was held. During the reception, the participants of varying avocations stuck around to exchange information and newly network with each other. We felt that this first general assembly meeting was very fruitful, for not only JUNBA but also every participant. And we earnestly await for more individuals and associations to enter JUNBA as members, to better assist JUNBA's mission to speed up internationalization of the Japanese universities.

JUNBA plays a uniquely significant role in promoting from its base in America 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/>

### General Assembly Meeting 2007



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# Events of Winter 2007

## RECEPTIONS

### SYMPOSIUM SUPPORT

#### AAAS Symposium "National Innovation Strategies in the East Asia Region"

Date : **Friday, February 16th, 2007**

Where : **Renaissance Parc 55, Barcelona**



On February 16th, the National Institute of Science & Technology Policy (NISTEP), Japan, in cooperation with the National Research Center for Science and Technology for Development (NRCSTD), Beijing, China; the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Seoul, Republic of Korea;

the Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IPM-CAS), Beijing, China; and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Seoul, Republic of Korea, held a symposium entitled "National Innovation Strategies in the East Asia Region." This was the very first China-Japan-Korea Tripartite symposium held at the AAAS Annual Meeting, 2007.

This symposium consisted of two parts; Part 1: "National Innovation Strategies in East Asia: Framework and Policy Implications." and Part 2: "National Innovation Strategies in East Asia: Policy Analyses and Evaluation." Representatives of Japan, China and Korea made compelling speeches for each part. A lot of people from not only Asian countries but also non-Asian regions came to hear their speeches, exposing the high interest in National Innovation strategies of Japan, China and Korea.

After the symposium, NISTEP, in cooperation with JSPS and JST, held a reception to celebrate this groundbreaking event. A number of people got together and boosted their interactions actively. These functions certainly enabled the appeal of National Innovation Strategies of Japan, China and Korea far and wide.

#### *Gatherings of Japanese fellows held in New York in January!*

On January 26th, the JSPS San Francisco Office held the "6<sup>th</sup> Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows" in New York City. Its purpose was to promote trans-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers working in the US and to deepen a sense of collegiality while facilitating network building among them. Although it was such a cold day, 27 Japanese researchers came together from all over the U.S. Some were fellows under JSPS' "Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad" and "Research Fellowships for Young Scientists" programs, and others were invited Japanese scientists doing research in the US.

The meeting began with remarks by San Francisco Office director Dr. Seishi Takeda. After a toast, time was given to allow the participants to engage in free conversation. The participants were then asked to each introduce themselves and their research work. Though short, these brief introductions attracted the participants' interests and the participants focused attentively. This added impetus to the conversation, on such subjects as where and what they had researched and their experiences living in the US and other countries, stimulated much of the networking. After their introductions, they continued to relax and chat with each other about their lives and research activities over food and drinks. Some of the participants noted that this gathering party gave them the precious chance to meet researchers like them in different fields. Others said that they could make friends not only in the same universities but also in the different universities and exchange a variety of information among them. We are sure that this gathering party was very useful and valuable to the participants and was successful as a whole.



*Research participants gathered at Skyline Hotel, Penthouse Ballroom, New York, NY.*

### REPORT OF UNIVERSITY VISIT

#### *Columbia University & Princeton University*

Date : **January 25th-26th, 2007**

Where : **Columbia University  
Princeton University**



*Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University*

The staff of JSPS ventured on a multi-purpose trip to two elite universities in the New York City area. Our three Program Coordinators organized the visits to Columbia University and Princeton University; Columbia in the heart of downtown New York City and Princeton in serene rural New Jersey, just an hour from the Big Apple. We visited both university campuses to introduce JSPS and its activities, establishing a relationship with both universities' East Asian Departments, and further introducing our Fellowship Programs to graduate level departments and professors. Our Program Coordinators then had the opportunity to interview key faculty members of de-

partments focusing on international/study abroad programs and community affairs. Program Coordinator Eiji Kotani had a chance to meet with staff from NYU (New York University), another great inner city university. And Program Coordinator Mitsuru Mizuno had the opportunity to interview a current JSPS Fellow, Dr. Toyonobu Usuki, researching at Columbia University. He was kind enough to take us on a campus tour when we first arrived – see his *interview on the back page*. This new east coast connection helps broaden the reach of JSPS and its activities, and we greatly appreciate those friendly and receptive faculty members whom took the time to meet and chat with us.



*Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, Princeton University*

Our final purpose in New York was to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Japanese Fellows – see *article above!*

## Column Are Universities in the “Marketplace” or in the “Agora” ?

**There held a lively conference at San Francisco this March. The conference was the annual meeting of AUTM (the Association of University Technology Managers).**



Annual Meeting of AUTM  
(Photo by Dr. Hiroshi Yagi)

On the first day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the lobby of Marriott Hotel was filled with about one thousand participants from all over the U.S. and many other

countries. They, both from academia and from industry, were all so eager in networking that the whole lobby was abuzz. After the opening session, the participants went into ten separate rooms upon their choosing, where educational tracks with various practical themes were in session. I attended one of these sessions that dealt with “the conflict of interest”. This problem has been often argued since the 80’s in the U.S. and has been introduced in earnest to Japan for several years now. The idea of conflict of interest (COI) consists of two subcategories; the one is COI (in a narrow sense), which is a matter of coordination between impartiality or neutrality of learning (both for individual researchers and for institutions, that is, colleges and universities) to the society in general and loyalty to the specific financial sponsor on contract basis, and the other is conflict of commitment, which is a matter of allocating time between giving lectures or doing research on campus and consulting with external clients or pursuing contract research off campus. If a researcher or an institution ignores or fails to manage COI (in a broad sense), they may be criticized, or, in the worst case, they will lose their integrity and financial support, which leads them to even the crisis of existence.

COI is not a matter of legal/illegal, but a matter of proper/improper. Moreover, in judging proper/improper, just “appearance” is crucial. In addition, there are many ways to manage COI, for example: making faculty members report certain monetary interest (including stock trading) to an internal committee, suspending the right of a faculty member to vote concerning the purchase of goods from his/her inter-

ested companies, combining other researchers to joint research or contract research, and breaking off certain joint/contract research. Therefore, it is not appropriate to make across-the-board regulations on COI. In fact, funding agencies such as National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health recommend (or require) institutions to lay down policies on COI and most research universities in the U.S. have their own. In Japan, too, many universities have just established their own policies.

In the AUTM session, one of the panelists focused on institutional COI, which seems to be so common and should be treated in an all the more sophisticated manner. Today many company managers have their seats on the board of regents/trustees of universities. Many universities hold shares of various companies through licensing their patents. What if a university pursues contract research with these companies? Who can manage this situation? There is no one entirely disinterested within the university since everyone gains his/her salary and money is fungible! Of course, it may be a matter of degree and we should keep on looking for the better balance through accumulating good practice.



Exhibition Site  
(Photo by Dr. Hiroshi Yagi)

I am afraid of being too abstract here, but there seems to be a problem in the basic character, and therefore, the autonomy of universities behind the problem of COI. Generally speaking, universities are international (or borderless) and public beings in nature, while companies are international and private beings. Incidentally, governments are domestic and public beings, while churches are international and public beings, just like universities. So, when a university and a company come across each other there must be some adjustment (or interpretation) because they are different in nature; the one is public while the other is private. And we call this adjustment the management of COI. In the same way, when a university and a government come across each other, there must be some adjustment because they are different in nature; the one is international while

the other is domestic. And we call this adjustment the autonomy of universities.

These days demands and requests for universities by government are getting higher and higher. Say, enhancement of industry-academia cooperation, strengthening international competitiveness, training manpower (or workforce) and so on. To be sure, these aims are important and urgent, but they are all from domestic ways of thinking and of secondary importance for universities in general.

Especially in Japan, besides the Ministry of Education (MEXT), there are many players within the government who have begun making demands and requests to universities such as the Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Council for Regulatory Reform, and the Industrial Structure Council and so on. So, even if MEXT tries to enhance the autonomy of universities, the total output of the whole government tends to be opposite. It may be because the so-called “lost decade” of the 90’s, in which the bubble economy burst, was so harsh and severe.

Anyway, unlike churches, universities cannot cover most of their expenses by donation of believers (or tuition fees of students). This is why, historically speaking, patrons have always been indispensable to the universities; churches, governments and industry. And this is why, theoretically speaking, “service to the public” is considered as the third mission of the universities next to the traditional and core missions; education and research. And this is why, practically speaking, continuous effort is needed in both cooperating with others flexibly and preserving core essence firmly. Universities have always been, and will inevitably be, in the “marketplace”, that is, the economic community, and in the ancient Greek circle “agora”, the political community at the same time.



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KUMAMOTO UNIVERSITY  
**GeoX CT Center**

<http://www.civil.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/geox>

## Establishment of GeoX CT Center at Kumamoto University, JAPAN.

X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) scanner has been widely used for years as a medical diagnosis technique. To date, this technique is attracting and increasing interest for its applicability as a tool in nondestructive testing in engineering. In particular, the testing of geology, or the materials comprising any kind of matter composed of geological substance, such as soils, rocks, concrete and pavement, proved to be very fruitful.

In 1996, the industrial X-ray CT scanner was installed in **Kumamoto University**. Since 1996, the Geotechnical and Rock Engineering group have challenged to visualize several issues in each field and the research activity has been very good. Finally, GeoX CT Center was established in Kumamoto University in 2005 to achieve the objective of research and education,



Photo. Industrial X-ray CT Scanner



Fig. 1

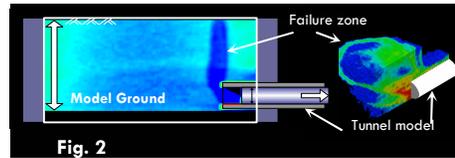


Fig. 2

comprehensive cooperation not only in Japan but around the world.

GeoX CT Center offers education in *Soil and Rock engineering, Geo-Environment engineering, Coastal engineering and Environmental Sanitary Engineering* by use of the X-ray CT method to students in master and doctor courses at Project Seminar "GeoX seminar" held of the Graduate School of Science and Technology of Kumamoto University. This seminar will be held every month. In the seminar, students can not only hear lectures by international researchers but also present their research in English. Furthermore, some students participate in international symposium to present their research and to exchange information with other researchers in the world.

Meanwhile, the staff at GeoX CT Center organized the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop in Kumamoto, in 2003, before even establishing GeoX CT Center, hence creating international GeoX community through this initial event. In 2006, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was held by Laboratory 3S (Soils, Solids and Structures) of Grenoble University in Grenoble & Aussois, France. Some graduate students had their presentations in both international workshops and built a new international network altogether.

We hope that the researchers and students in the world use this center and share new research and technology of GeoX Community through this center. If you have any interests, please contact us (<http://www.civil.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/geox/>) anytime.



Fig.3

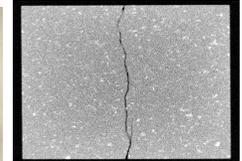


Fig.4

### REFERENCE :

- (Fig. 1) The First proceeding of X-ray CT for Geomaterials
- (Fig.2) X-ray CT images obtained from model
- (Fig.3) Granite rock sample which contains a major crack induced by splitting test
- (Fig.4) CT-image of cross section in rock sample

## The Characteristics of Midwifery Education

**Kumamoto University** has a 70 year history of midwifery education, including the former educational system, and has produced about 1,400 graduates as midwives. In Japan, the midwifery educational system exists above the nursing education, and only qualified nurses can get the midwifery qualifications. According to Japanese law, the definition of a midwife is the women who helps in childbirth and gives health guidance to expectant mothers, puerperal women and newborn babies. Consequently, there is no male midwife in Japan. The assistance in normal labor is an exclusive practice of midwives. That means neither a public health nurse nor the nurse-practitioner are permitted to conduct the childbirth assistance.

Nowadays, the shortage of obstetricians and midwives is a grave social problem in Japan. Thus, it is an urgent issue to foster the midwives who play an active role on the front-line of the maternal and child health administration. In response to these social demands, our University has a plan to educate twenty midwives every year which is the maximum number for the four-year national university in Japan. Our plan largely outnumbers eight students, that is the average number of midwifery students of the four-year universities. Our midwifery education is equipped with a sophisticated curriculum which is appropriate to foster the highly specialized personnel. The characteristics of our study are the health promotion of working pregnant women, sexual education to youth, and the history of the traditional birth attendant (TBA) in Kumamoto, and so on.

The comparative study of our midwifery education with those of foreign countries is also the theme of our high interest.

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School of Health Sciences, Kumamoto University

## Research on Lafcadio Hearn

Lafcadio Hearn, a Greek-born English national, was a multi-faceted person: a well-known journalist and novelist in America and in Martinique of the West Indies; a scholar of English/American literature in Tokyo; an educator who taught English in Matsue, Kumamoto and Tokyo, Japan; a folklorist; and a translator from French into English. He passed away in 1904 as a Japanese citizen with the name of Koizumi Yakumo.

**Kumamoto University**, which was once called the Fifth High School (*Go-kou*), has been doing research on Lafcadio Hearn for the last twenty years. The Memorial Museum of our University (*Go-kou Kinen-kan*) and the University Library support our long-term research on his life and works. We had a 100th anniversary Hearn symposium, constructed a Hearn relief on campus in 2004, and issued the academic publication titled *Lafcadio Hearn: Modernization and Some Aspects of Cross-cultural Understanding* in 2005. Our focus for 2006 and 2007 has been on the recovery of the Matsue students' 94 English compositions which were corrected by Hearn himself. This study is expected to make a further contribution to the recent research on Lafcadio Hearn.

**Prof. Morio Nishikawa** [nishi@educ.kumamoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:nishi@educ.kumamoto-u.ac.jp)  
Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University



## The Center Of Excellency (COE) for “Creation of Future Social Infrastructure Based on Information Telecommunication Technology” at Yokohama National University



Prof. Ryuji KOHNO

COE Leader, Faculty of Engineering, Yokohama National University

### Introduction

As a Center Of Excellency (COE) for research and education in a world of the 21st century, the COE has been successfully pursuing R&D, promotion of standardization, regulation, and business in information communication technology (ICT) for future social infrastructure. This resume reports our aims, objectives and major results in R&D and high level education. Next, this introduces our successive contribution in our newly established center, i.e. Center for Future Medical Social Infrastructure Based on Information Communications Technology, so-called Medical ICT Center.

As a world-level COE for research and education in a joint field of optical and radio communications, our COE was established and invented various novel theories and technologies for creating a new global vision of the future social infrastructure based on ICT. In order to maintain advancement of Japan in communications and its related industries, there is a demand to keep creating new technologies and theories and to educate a high level of experts who can cover

### Distinguished Activities of the COE

multiple fields. To satisfy this demand, this COE program has objectives for a top level of research and education to create a vision and its supporting technologies for the future social infrastructure based on ICT. In particular, this program focuses on technologies and theories in a joint field of optical and radio communications for five years.

This COE consists of four groups in order to pursue the above-mentioned objectives. The system-designing group has researched and developed many architectures and schemes of various communication systems. Its major results are promotion of international standardization and regulation of UWB technology, starting up venture business on an array antenna by matching funds with industry, and invention of schemes of evaluating security robustness of biometrics for personal identification. The devices-researching group has invented and experimented new devices for implementation of communication systems. The group has been investigating integrated photonics including novel research activity in photonic crystals and micro-processor using single flux quantum (SFQ). The future social infra group has investigated demands and trends in communications and its related fields to keep creating new projects and investigating strategies for any future problems. The medical care informatics group has been established since 2004 and been collaborating with the COE on bio-science in Yokohama City University (YCU) in order to promote a new research in a cross-over field between medical science and engineering.

This COE has collaborated and cooperated to achieve national and global R&D as well as education together with our external partners such as National Institute of Information Communications Technology (NICT), YCU, Yokosuka Research Park

(YRP), domestic and global industries, institutions, and government.

The basic principle for education in this COE is to educate doctor course students to be such world level researchers, managers, educators, or bureaucrats that can research, develop, plan and manage core technologies and business to create a better future social infrastructure. For such a purpose, advantages of the COE and collaboration with associating domestic and international institutes and companies are fully applied to make doctoral candidates more aggressive in searching new unsolved problems and solving them. Moreover, new trials to make candidates more international and active have been achieved by employing them as research associates and distributing them to internship, venture business instruction and so on.

### Establishment of a Center for Future Medical Social Infrastructure Based on Information Communications Technology

A social demand on future sophisticated medical infrastructure has been increased according to the increase of senior citizens in a world. The Center for Future Medical Social Infrastructure Based on Information Communications Technology (ICT), simply called Medical ICT (MICT) Center, was established on September 29, 2005 in order to research engineering and science for creation of intelligent social infrastructures for medical care and social welfare as well as commerce, transportation and energy. Using ICT with other advanced technologies The Center is cooperated with the Medical Department of YCU and NICT to share human resources and facilities and to pursue experiments and education for joint areas between engineering and medicine.



## The Opening Workshop of SANKEN USA Branch in San Francisco

December 15th & 16th, 2006 Hotel Nikko San Francisco

Sponsored by 21<sup>st</sup> century COE

“Towards Creating New Industries Based on Inter-Nanoscience”  
 In cooperation with Osaka Univ. SF Office & JSPS SF Office

“The Opening Workshop of SANKEN USA Branch in San Francisco” was held at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco, USA, on December 15 - 16, 2006. This workshop covered the emerging fields of nanotechnology from the latest research and development in nanomaterials, nanolithography, to nanobiotechnology. SANKEN is an abbreviation of “The Institute of Scientific and Indus-

trial Research (ISIR)” in Japanese. As a part of the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) project titled “Towards Creating New Industries Based on Inter-Nanoscience”, the SANKEN USA branch in San Francisco was opened in this December at the Osaka University San Francisco Office. This branch will promote the collaborative works of state-of-the-art nanoscience and nanotechnology with universities and corporations in USA, in particular, the bay area. SANKEN has also started its CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) branch in Paris, France (SANKEN Europe branch), in February 2005. The opening workshop and the mini-workshop were held at the SANKEN Europe branch as well, in last February and July. The exchanges of human resources and cooperative research have been extensively operated to date. JSPS SF Office expects the SANKEN USA branch to carry out their mission, and hopes they will construct a strong relationship between Japan and USA.



# Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

## Toyonobu Usuki's Interview



Dr. Toyonobu Usuki is a chemist researching in Dr. Koji Nakanishi's laboratory, at Columbia University in New York City. After being awarded the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad back in 2005, he immediately made his way to Dr. Nakanishi's lab through the support of Dr. Masahiro Hirama, his former boss at Tohoku University, where Toyonobu also earned his BS, MS, and PhD in Chemistry. Exploring why nature creates pharmacologically effective compounds such as natural products has driven Toyonobu to his current research quest. A couple comprehensive examples of this are blueberries and *Ginkgo biloba*. Blueberries have been linked to clarity in eye vision, and *Ginkgo* extract is reputed for improving memory and sharpening mental alertness. Toyonobu spends much of his research time isolating and characterizing these natural products, and since they are extremely limited in quantity and most of the time unstable, his research will be-

come an important tool for future chemists.

Dr. Usuki decided to come to the US because he felt globalization is important, and the knowledge he would require from his experience abroad would make him a more balanced researcher. Writing papers in English is becoming more standard, and so Toyonobu submerged himself into an all-English environment. He says he helped foreigners working in his laboratory back in Japan, and hence his English abilities improved. With so much research work to do there is little time to 'study' English now, so he recommends to future researchers that they practice as much English before actually coming to the US.

During his time here, Toyonobu discovered his taste for opera, and what a better place than New York. His most memorable moment may have been catching a foul ball at a Yankee's baseball game - hit by Hideki Matsui no less! But Toyonobu also discovered a new appreciation for Japan through his stay here in the US. Before coming, Toyonobu was always under the assumption that the US was much further developed than other countries. His mind has changed and he believes Japan is more

### Dr. Toyonobu Usuki

MS (Chemistry) Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Japan, 2002

JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists 2004-05

Ph.D. (Chemistry) Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Japan, 2005

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad at Department of Chemistry, Columbia University, NY, U.S., 2005-

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sophisticated. But this doesn't change his respect and appreciation on the lab and work environments here. In the US, there is a lot more discussion amongst lab members, especially before trying something new.

Ultimately, Dr. Usuki would like to find something useful, something to benefit the world. He can confirm that all his current research is cutting-edge correct, and JSPS SF Office believes that he will become an outstanding researcher. Thanks Toyonobu!



## The Office Staff Switch

### JSPS San Francisco Office wishes a heartfelt farewell to program Coordinators.

**Noriko Yokoi, Eiji Kotani, and Mr. Mitsuru Mizuno** have accomplished their 2 years exchange program with JSPS. Each returning to their home universities in Japan, Noriko, Eiji, and Mitsuru will most likely continue working in the international affairs realm. During their short stay here with JSPS San Francisco Office, all three coordinators greatly contributed to mobilizing JSPS activities, giving us the opportunity to double, sometimes triple, our work output. With the commencement of JUNBA, and JSPS' role as head administrating office, the coordinators' assistance became even more vital. As their co-worker and friend, I've had the pleasure of witnessing their growth, their advancing English speaking skills, their confidence in the face of adversity, and their enthusiasm and open-mindedness toward the diverse cultures surrounding and within the Bay Area. As for their personal statements, here's what the departees had to say about their most important experiences: **Noriko** felt her opportunity to visit many American universities, west to east coast, and to meet the staff and students in very open environments were her great accomplishments while working with JSPS. She learned much about study abroad programs and hopes to continue working in international affairs when she returns to Kyoto University. **Eiji** stated



his contribution and participation in the support of JUNBA was his most important experience. He was able to make connections and meet active people through JUNBA, learning and growing through them, and he will take this back with him to his new position in Yokohama National University. **Mitsuru** admitted that meeting all the diverse people during his time here was the most influential experience. Even the Japanese people he met here are different from back in Japan. He realized, as his way of thinking changed, how important it is to have a dream, and he plans to focus on such personal fulfillments while further internationalizing for Nagoya Institute of Technology. From the entire staff of JSPS SF Office - we wish you the best and we'll miss you guys! **This April, we will be welcoming a new Program Coordinator**

## Announcement of Spring 2007

Check out our website !  
[www.jspusa-sf.org](http://www.jspusa-sf.org)

**NIPS** Look out for research plan recruitment for the 2008 fiscal year in Japan-US Brain Research Cooperation Program

National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS) invites Japanese researchers to submit Brain Research plan, in the following URL.

<http://www.nips.ac.jp/jusnou/english/>

### The 40th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California April 14th-15th

JSPS San Francisco Office will again be representing at the Japan Pavilion, within the Radisson Miyako Hotel, to introduce our activities and meet new people, during the first two-day celebrations of the 40th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in SF's Japantown.

### - Upcoming JSPS Fellowship Deadlines -

To prospective applicants for JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (Short-term) for North American and European Researchers through JSPS San Francisco Office:

Please be advised that the next upcoming application deadline is:

**April 4th & July 4th, 2007**