



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

## San Francisco Office

2001 Addison St, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

## Events of Winter 2008

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNBA Summit, Symposium and Technology Fair



Reception at the Consul General's official residence

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.

The first JUNBA Summit and Symposium was held exactly one year ago on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Consulate General of Japan and Stanford University. This second event held by JUNBA, "JUNBA 2008-A Promotion of Industry-Academia-Government (IAG Collaborations toward the Year 2025)" was held at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>



Gretchen Kalonji, UCOP

and comprised of three parts: Summit, Symposium and Technology Fair in the field of IAG collaborations. The JUNBA Summit discussed the strategy of international IAG collaborations by participating university representatives who are directly involved in the subject. The JUNBA Symposium consisted of a series of lectures on IAG collaborations presented by opinion-leaders from Japan and the US. They included a representative from the Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Cabinet of Japan, representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and experts of IAG Collaborations among US universities and industries. The JUNBA Technology Fair had 15 participating universities open up their technologies with IAG Collaborations in mind. During the presentation, exhibition booths were set up outside the meeting room.



Chikaosa Tanimoto, President of JUNBA

As a prelude to the event, an invitation only reception was held on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Yasumasa Nagamine, the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco. Guests, most

of who had arrived from Japan that morning, were treated to an extravagant feast.

The Summit began on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> with opening remarks by Chikaosa

Tanimoto, the President of JUNBA followed by a greeting by Motoyuki Ono, the President of JSPS and a greeting by Yuji Muranaga, the Executive Director of JETRO San Francisco. Following this great start were presentations by 6 Universities followed by a Q&A session. The presentations were informative and a lot of interesting questions were raised during the Q & A session.

The Symposium held on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> included a greeting by the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco followed by presentations on IAG Collaborations by various speakers. These presentations were an enriching experience for all who attended.

The day ended with a reception held at the hotel where participants enjoyed an energetic sharing of further information and the forming of new collegial networks. Scholars from different universities and organizations established new friendships for the future.

The Technology Fair, an all day affair held on the 11<sup>th</sup>, began with opening remarks from Masato Matsuo, a JUNBA Board Member, followed by oral presentations by 13 Japanese Universities. During these on-going presentations, informative exhibition booths were set up outside the meeting room so participants could get more information on each university. The Technology Fair ended with closing remarks by Seishi Takeda, the Vice President of JUNBA and Director of JSPS-San Francisco Office.

Following the Technology Fair, another reception was held at the hotel where some of the participants played stringed instruments. A few brave participants also belted out Japanese songs on a karaoke machine in front of everyone.

JUNBA 2008 was a success, not only for JUNBA but for all who participated. We earnestly await more individuals and associations to enter JUNBA as members and to better assist the mission of JUNBA to speed up internationalization of the Japanese universities. JSPS would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters who made JUNBA

2008 possible. With your help, we can continue to build JUNBA as a solid foundation for the future. Thank you for all your help in making JUNBA 2008 a success!



Exhibition Booth



Summit

### Volume IX

#### Issue March 2008

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## Events of Winter 2008

### Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows in Boston, MA

On February 8th, JSPS San Francisco Office held its eighth "Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows" in Boston. These meetings are meant to promote cross-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers laboring in the US. While serving to deepen the friendly relationships among them, the meetings also



provide the researchers with an opportunity to build working networks. Participating in this year's gathering were researchers, many of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. Still others were invited from among Japanese researchers currently residing in the US.

In a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere, they

engaged each other in conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the US. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the US.



Similarly, on January 31st, we held gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellow in JSPS San Francisco Office when Director of JSPS Administration Department, Ms. Suzuko Oki visited here.

### Report of University Visit

In February, the staff of JSPS visited New York and Boston in order to visit the laboratories of three universities in the East Coast: Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. JSPS Postdoctoral Fellows for Research Abroad at each respective university were kind enough to give us a tour of their laboratory. We



Columbia University Department of Chemistry



MIT Department of Chemistry

interviewed them about their research, laboratory facilities, the differences between research in America and Japan, their monthly maintenance allowance from JSPS and so on. These interviews help us to determine the needs of our Postdoctoral Fellows and to better understand the implementation of JSPS programs for the future. In this way, we are

able to provide greater assistance to Japanese researchers visiting the U.S. in pursuit of their research work. We greatly appreciate those friendly and receptive Postdocs who took the time to meet and chat with us. It was an educational and memorable experience for us.



Harvard University  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

### Tokyo University of Science

#### 1<sup>st</sup> TUS International Collaboration Workshop

The Tokyo University of Science will be holding the first International Collaboration Workshop 2008. This workshop is a component of the "Development of Science and Technology-based Human Resources for a Global Era" project adopted as part of the "Supporting Ultramodern International Cooperation" program conducted by Japan's Ministry of Education,

Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The aim is to uncover the seeds for joint education and research among the collaborating universities by holding an international workshop with these universities to narrow our focus to unique educational research fields. We plan to invite other key universities in North America and Asia to join this collaboration. We will carefully study the possibilities for further development of this approach and the ability to apply this approach to more generalized situations will be shared with the international community.

There will also be a preliminary coordinator conference with all of the coordinators from the collaborating universities following the workshop in order to confirm that there are mutual understandings among the universities and a shared awareness regarding the content of the collaboration as well as the promotion of the program.

Date: March 10 (MON) to March 11 (TUE)

Location: Iidabashi Rainbow Building, 7F, Convention Hall

<http://www.tus.ac.jp/en/news/2008/0208.html>

# Bay Area & Japan Related News 2

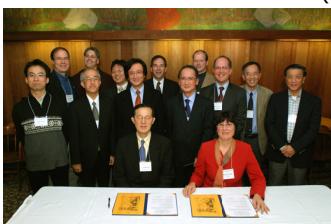
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## Nuclear Technology and Society - Needs for Next Generation

The Joint International Workshop "Nuclear Technology and Society - Needs for Next Generation", organized by the University of Tokyo and University of California at Berkeley was held at the Faculty Club at UC Berkeley Campus from January 6 to 8, 2008.

In 2007, the University of Tokyo's Department of Nuclear Engineering and Management (UTNEM) was granted a Global Center-Of-Excellence (COE) award



by JSPS for the next five years. The project is led by Prof. Yoshiaki Oka of UTNEM, and is ti-

tled "Nuclear Education and Research Initiative." The goal of this project is to develop human resources for future nuclear technology development by focusing on relationship with society, international communities, environmental safety, and securities. By looking at this project from global points of perspectives, UTNEM chose the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley (UCBNE) as sole partner of this project in the United States. In 2007, both UTNEM and UCBNE started scientific exchange with colloquia

and lectures by using internet tele-conferencing system.

After the accident at the Three Mile Island Unit 2 (TMI-2) nuclear power plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979, no nuclear power station has been constructed in the United States. Recently, people have experienced climate changes resulting from global warming in their everyday life, and they have given attention to nuclear power for the next generation energy. In such conditions, it is timely to organize this joint workshop by the eminent departments of nuclear engineering of two countries, Japan and the United States.

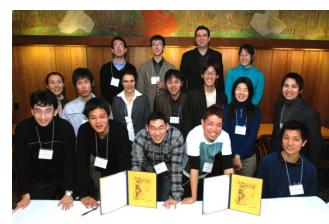
At the reception, Prof. Jasmina Vujic, Chair, UCBNE and Prof. Yoshiaki Oka, UTNEM gave the opening addresses, and Prof. Shankar S. Sastry, Dean of the College of Engineering, University of California at Berkeley gave the welcome address. Mr. Yasumasa Nagamine, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco gave the address for this very important collaboration between Japan and the United States in the area of nuclear technology development and international education. Dr. Seishi Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office gave an address for this joint international workshop supported by the Global COE program of JSPS.

On January 7th, Prof. Joonhong Ahn explained the objective of this joint international workshop. The presentations were



carried out continuously by the researchers from Japan, the United States and Canada. The topics focused on Experiences and Future Directions of Nuclear Technologies, Progress and Challenges in Nuclear Technologies, Safety and Regulations, and Innovative Technologies for Future Industries.

On January 8th, graduate students from UTNEM and UCBNE presented their research results. The panel discussion was held in the final session of the workshop. The tension was relieved for the graduate students after finishing their oral presentations. A lively and heated discussion by the graduate students of both universities followed. Unfortunately, the time limit had been exceeded and this most enthusiastic panel discussion had to be concluded.



## KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

### Kyushu University Global COE and California NanoSystems Institute Present Joint Symposium on Molecular Nanosystems



On January 29 – 30, 2008, Kyushu University Global COE and California NanoSystems Institute presented a Joint Symposium on Molecular Nanosystems at the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI) auditorium in the University of California, Los Angeles

#### Symposium Themes:

Molecular Informatics  
Molecular System Creation  
Energy and Material Conversion

BioMolecular Systems

#### Special Panel Discussion:

"Building University/ Industry Collaborations in



#### the United States and Japan"

Rapid progress in the field of "molecular assembly systems" and "supramolecular chemistry" has provided an opportunity to design and synthesize special "molecular assemblies" with ordered structures and functions. This symposium focused on the current status of work in molecular materials and nanosystems and the prospects for future research. Participants were researchers from the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI) at UCLA and from the Global COE at Kyushu University drawn from multiple disciplines including biology, medicine, chemistry and bioengineering.

Poster sessions with oral descriptions were given by PhD students and young researchers from both institutions.



The Symposium concluded with a special panel discussion on the challenges of creating research collaborations between universities and corporations.



## Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

### **Kyoko Watanabe's interview**

Kyoko Watanabe came to the U.S. in 2006 on a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad. At that time, she was on a JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists at Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University, where she received her PhD in physics. After that, she spent almost two years in Prof. Robert P. Lin's group for RHESSI satellite at Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley.

She is researching the mechanism of the acceleration of the particle in solar flare, to approach the acceleration mechanism of cosmic rays. Information on the acceleration particle is obtained by observing the hard X-rays, gamma rays, and solar neutrons. The Reuven Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (RHESSI) satellite has been observing hard X-rays and gamma rays of solar flares since 2002, and Watanabe is approaching the particle acceleration mechanism in solar flares by comparing these data and solar neutron data observed on the ground.

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

**A.** The particle acceleration mechanism of solar flare is actively researched in the

U.S. but it is not done so much in Japan, and the number of researchers are few in Japan. Therefore, the US is the best place to research my field. Moreover, this laboratory developed the RHESSI satellite, and there is a lot of know-how to analyze the satellite data.

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

**A.** The laboratory to which I belong now allows me to do my research very freely, compared with my laboratory in Japan. It is wonderful to have this conducive environment where one can research in his/her own way.

Though there are a lot of restrictions in Japan when we use the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, there are few restrictions in America. When I told my other laboratory members about Japanese restrictions of the Grants-in-Aid, they couldn't believe it and they thought it's strange.

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

**A.** Of course in the U.S., I can get the latest information easily and early (some of which are kept secret from other people). Now we can get much information by using the internet, but still there is

something we cannot obtain if we are not there, so this is a good chance to acquire other aspects. In fact, my vision has changed by staying in U.S..

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

**A.** My dream is to continue the research. I want our research to inform regular people, and I hope many people become interested in science.

Researching abroad is a very good opportunity, not only to improve one's research but also to increase one's life experience.

I think that it is necessary to see Japan from foreign countries to get various point of view.

**Dr. Kyoko Watanabe**  
MS (Physics) Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Japan, 2002  
JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, 2004-2006  
Ph.D. (Physics) Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Japan, 2005  
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad at Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, U.S., 2006-



### **JSPS San Francisco Office wishes a heartfelt farewell to our Program Coordinator and International Researcher.**



Yuichi Iida

Yuichi Iida, as Program Coordinator, has kept busy with preparations of JUNBA meetings, gatherings for Japanese fellows, arranging meetings for delegates from MEXT, JSPS HQ and Japanese Universities along with promoting JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs. He was able to build strong networks and meet people represent-

### **The Office Staff Switch**

ing a diversity of careers during his short stay here. He greatly contributed to mobilizing JSPS activities, giving us the opportunity to double, sometimes triple our work output.

Teruhisa Niwa spent much of his time launching the first overseas office of Tokyo University of Science (TUS) and getting their business on track. He established TUS San Francisco Office last May in the JSPS San Francisco Office to promote international cooperation of education and research between TUS and the University of California at Santa Cruz, Davis and Santa Barbara and Ohio State University. His duties included supporting students who participated in the overseas summer program and one-year study abroad programs, exchanging information about education and research between TUS and American universities as

well as participating in JUNBA activities. He dealt with each of his duties earnestly and successfully accomplished his tasks.

This April, JSPS San Francisco Office will be welcoming two new Program Coordinators and one New International Researcher to replace Iida san and Niwa san who will leave at the end of March.



Teruhisa Niwa

From the entire staff of JSPS SF office - we wish you all the best and we'll miss you guys!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **CJS Symposium at UCB: Ancient Japan and the Pacific Rim**

<http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events>

- 3/20 4:00PM-6:00PM Seaborg Room, Faculty Club  
Opening Lecture: The Jomon and the Prehistoric Culture in the Pacific Rim
- 3/21 9:00AM-3:00PM IEAS Conference Room  
Session 1: Jomon and Circum-Pacific Rim Hunter-Gatherers  
Session 2: New Developments in Archaeological Science
- 3/22 9:00AM-2:00PM IEAS Conference Room  
Session 3: Biocultural Diversity in Prehistoric and Protohistoric Japan

#### **The 41st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California**

**April 12th-13th**

JSPS San Francisco Office will again be representing at the Japan Pavilion, within the Miyako Hotel, to introduce our activities and meet new people, during the first two-day celebrations of the 41st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in SF's Japantown.

As always, should you have any specific questions, or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, feel free to contact us at [webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org](mailto:webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org).

Check out our website!

[www.jpsusa-sf.org](http://www.jpsusa-sf.org)