

JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER

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PAST EVENTS

JUNBA 2015 - Symposium and Summit on University Governance



The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) held the JUNBA 2015 Symposium and Summit on the theme of "Governance as a Major Leverage Tool for Improving Quality in Higher Education" on January 8 and 9, 2015 at the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront (Burlingame, CA). This 9th annual JUNBA conference brought together Japanese and U.S. university leaders to exchange views on the governance systems in higher education institutions. Approximately 120 participants attended the JUNBA 2015, which included representatives of 20 Japanese universities and governmental organizations as well as those affiliated with U.S. universities.

The symposium held on the first day began with opening remarks by Masato Matsuo, President of JUNBA, followed by 2 lectures on the governance of the University of California (UC) system. The first lecture titled "Higher Education Leadership and the Role of Provosts at the University of California" was given by Aimée Dorr, Provost and Executive Vice President, University of California Office of the President (UCOP). Provost Dorr engaged the audience with her

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wealth of experience on the role of provosts at UC and leadership in higher education administration. The second lecture titled “The Distribution of Governance Functions within the University of California and the Roles of the Faculty in Them” was given by C. Judson King, Provost and Senior Vice President – Academic Affairs, Emeritus of UC. Dr. King introduced the system of shared governance at UC and how it functions by using 2 specific cases as examples. These lectures along with a conversational interview and Q&A session with the speakers allowed the participants from Japan to gain valuable insight into the UC governance system where they learned practical methods to benefit Japanese universities. The extensive knowledge and experience the speakers shared were highly appreciated by the audience.

On the second day, President Matsuo led the summit with opening remarks followed by greetings from Masato Watanabe, the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, and Jumpei Watanabe, Executive Director of JSPS. Following that, Yoshiyuki Ohtawa, Analyst, High-

er Education Bureau at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), delivered a keynote speech on strengthening governance functions of Japanese universities. In the afternoon sessions, Japanese university leaders exchanged their views and thoughts on leadership of university presidents and governance of higher education institutions in a lively discussion. They also shared the most effective practices of their universities. The 2-day event concluded with President Matsuo emphasizing the importance of utilizing faculty and staff resources in university administration and globalizing higher education in Japan.

In addition, JUNBA core member universities held a poster session on both days to present their activities and efforts in the U.S. such as student exchange programs and the development of academia-industry relationships.

The successful completion of the JUNBA 2015 was achieved through the support and cooperation from many different individuals and organizations, and the members of JUNBA are thankful to all the contributors and participants of the event.



Provost Dorr



Dr. King



Conversational interview and Q&A



Mr. Ohtawa



Audience at the symposium

****What's JUNBA?***

The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) is 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 and research and to promote business creation both in Japan and the U.S. through the support of internationalization activities, training of Japanese university personnel, and the stimulation of industry-academia-government collaborations between Japan and the U.S. JSPS San Francisco supports the activities of JUNBA as an administrative office.

JSPS-UCSB Joint Symposium “Child’s Play”

On February 27 and 28, 2015, JSPS San Francisco and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UC Santa Barbara) held a joint symposium on the theme “Child’s Play: Multi-Sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond” at the McCune Conference Room of UC Santa Barbara.

The objective of this interdisciplinary symposium was to bring together scholars who are currently working on histories of children and childhood primarily in Japan and are also situating these works within a larger transregional, transnational or global context. The symposium explored how children and childhood has been constructed and what roles they played in cultural production processes from the medieval period to today. Interests were particularly expressed in analyses of links across time and space that pay attention to affect, embodiment, and subjectivity, and attempt to rethink theoretical parameters of the study of childhood, gender, and a variety of associated sensibilities.

The symposium started with opening remarks by 3 professors of UC Santa Barbara: David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor, Fabio Rambelli, Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, and Sabine Frühstück, Professor of Modern Japanese Cultural

Studies and the organizer of the symposium. Over 2 days, 15 scholars, including 5 from Japan, presented their papers on children and childhood from various perspectives. Topics covered included but were not limited to: children’s toys, play, and writings; representation of children in media; children in war time and politics; transition to adulthood for children in the medieval and Edo period; and anthropological research on children today. On the first day, a short presentation on JSPS fellowship programs was also given by a JSPS San Francisco staff member to inform researchers and students of research opportunities in Japan.

After the symposium successfully wrapped up with a final discussion between participating scholars, there was a panel conversation with Japanese artist Kumi Machida, who was invited to the symposium for the depiction of children in her works. The panel conversation was the highlight of the 2 day-symposium, and the room was filled to capacity with students, scholars and faculty.

The symposium prompted interaction between Japanese and U.S. scholars and helped broaden everyone’s knowledge and understanding on the theme of Child’s Play in Japan.



Left: Prof. Frühstück
Right: Kumi Machida (Middle)

8th Meeting for Japanese University Faculty Members in the U.S.

On November 21, 2014, JSPS San Francisco held the 8th meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish mutual networks among researchers who hold a full-time position at a Japanese university and are staying in the U.S. for their research. 13 researchers from Japanese universities, who are conducting research at San Francisco State University, Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, attended the meeting.

The meeting started with greetings from Prof. Masayuki Izutsu, Director of JSPS San Francisco followed by brief self-introductions from the participants and a discussion session. The topic of the discussion was “The

strength of universities in the U.S. (especially in the San Francisco Bay Area) in terms of education and research.” After the meeting, the participants engaged each other in a free discussion about their research activities and living environment in the U.S. in a relaxed atmosphere.



28th Gathering of JSPS Fellows from Japan in the U.S. & 9th Meeting for Japanese University Faculty Members in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 28th gathering of JSPS fellows from Japan in the U.S. on March 6, 2015 at the Alumni House of the University of California, Berkeley. The gathering is held three times a year for researchers in the U.S. under Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad, Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, and other JSPS programs which promote the international mobility of excellent young researchers. The 9th meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S. was held jointly this time, and 22 researchers, including 9 JSPS fellows, attended the event.

The meeting started with warm greetings from Prof. Masayuki Izutsu, Director of JSPS San Francisco, then each researcher introduced themselves and their current research activities with a short Q&A session following. Mr. Toru Funahashi, Managing Director of JSPS, also gave a presentation on the current situation of re-

search activities in Japan and JSPS’s efforts to promote science. In addition, 2 guest speakers from United Japanese researchers Around the world (UJA), Dr. Akishige Hokugo, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of California, Los Angeles and Dr. Kuniko Kadoya, Scientist IV, Allergan, introduced the activities of UJA and shared their experience and tips on pursuing a career as a researcher in the U.S.

After the presentations, the participants divided into 2 groups and compared and discussed the attractive aspects of research environments in Japan and the U.S. The event concluded successfully with comments from Mr. Funahashi and Dr. Izutsu, and the participants continued to discuss their research, life and future career over refreshments and appreciated this opportunity to network with researchers from different fields, background, and career stages.



Dr. Hokugo



Dr. Kadoya



13th Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 13th workshop for Japanese university administrative staff in the U.S. on January 10, 2015.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a professional development and networking opportunity with administrative staff from Japanese universities currently working in the U.S. 14 participants attended the workshop from the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Hitotsubashi University, Hokkaido University, Kochi University of Technology, Kyoto University, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Nagoya Institute of Technology, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Osaka University, Tokyo Medical University, and the University of Tokyo.

The workshop started with a greeting from Mr. Jumpei Watanabe, Executive Director of JSPS, followed by a lecture by Mr. Koichiro Aoshima, Coordinator of International Student Services & Outreach at San Francisco State University. In his lecture, Mr. Aoshima presented his work at the university as well as the differences between U.S. and Japanese universities in terms of the human resources system, decision making processes, and office culture. He also shared his thoughts on student

services and work philosophy with the audience. Participants were then divided into 3 groups to discuss their career goals. After the workshop wrapped up with a discussion summary of the 3 groups and comments from Mr. Aoshima, the participants engaged in networking and continued the discussion on their careers as university administrative staff.



Mr. Aoshima



JSPS Honorary Fellow was conferred on Former Director Takeda

Dr. Seishi Takeda, the former JSPS San Francisco Director, received the lifelong title of “JSPS Honorary Fellow” which is given to persons who have made distinctive contributions to the advancement of JSPS programs. Dr. Takeda served JSPS as the director of JSPS Washington Office from October 2000 to July 2004 and as the first director of JSPS San Francisco Office from April 2004 to March 2014. The title was conferred to honor his efforts and accomplishments to advance JSPS programs in the U.S. and develop academic exchange and collaboration between Japan and the U.S.

A conferral ceremony was held on December 15, 2014 at JSPS Headquarters in Tokyo and a certificate of title was presented to him by President Anzai Yuichiro. Approximately 35 people, including former staff members of JSPS Washington and San Francisco offices, gathered to celebrate his long time accomplishments and reunited with each other.

Taking this opportunity, all of us at JSPS San Francisco would once again like to express our appreciation for his leadership and contributions to our office.



Dr. Takeda and President Anzai



Dr. Takeda giving speech



Reaching Out to Latin America

JSPS San Francisco has made efforts for strengthening collaborative relationships with science promotion agencies and research universities in Latin American countries in FY 2014. Here are our activities over the past 6 months.

Mexico

On October 26 and 27, 2014, staff members of JSPS San Francisco attended the 2nd Mexico-Japan Rectors' Summit held at the University of Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Around 70 people from Japan, including 25 university presidents and vice presidents, and around 200 people from Mexico who work in universities and academia attended the summit. Mexico's Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and Public Education, and the Governor of Guanajuato also joined the opening ceremony of the summit.

JSPS exhibited a booth at the expo along with other institutions and research projects, and around 80 people stopped by the booth and listened to the information on JSPS fellowship programs. JSPS also networked with officials and faculty of the Secretariat of Public Education, the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the National Polytechnic Institute, the University of Guanajuato, and other institutions during the summit.

Brazil

Staff members of JSPS San Francisco visited Brazil from December 3 to 5 to give briefings on JSPS and its programs. On December 3, the delegation visited São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), a science-promotion agency in the state of São Paulo, and gave a briefing in front of around 30 faculty and staff from uni-

versities in São Paulo. This meeting was made possible by the support of Dr. Regina Costa de Oliveira, Biological and Agronomical Sciences Area Director of FAPESP. Prof. Celso Lafer, President of FAPESP, also joined the meeting.

On December 4, the delegation visited the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and exchanged information with Prof. Edson Watanabe, Vice Director of the Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering (COPPE-UFRJ) for future collaboration. They also visited Rio de Janeiro State Research Foundation (FAPERJ) and had a meeting with Dr. Jerson Lima da Silva, Scientific Director, and Mrs. Priscilla Haddock Lobo, International Advisor.

Then on December 5, they held another briefing session at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) in Recife with the support of Prof. Armando Shinohara and Lecturer Ayako Ono from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Faculty and students of the university attended the session.

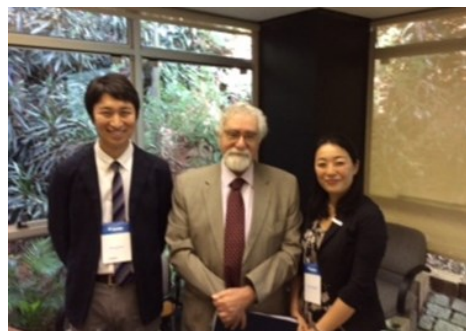
*Our participation at the 6th International Seminar of the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities in October 2014 is covered in vol. 35 of our newsletter.

Argentina

On February 18, 2015, members of JSPS San Francisco visited the University of Buenos Aires. The delegation had a meeting with Dr. Anibal Cofone, Secretary of Science and Technology, and gave a briefing of JSPS activities and its fellowship programs. On February 19, another meeting was held with Dr. Jorge G. Tezon and Dr. Viviana Alvarez-Shueller of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET). At the meeting, information on each organization's international programs was exchanged.



Expo booth at the 2nd Mexico-Japan Rectors' Summit



With FAPESP President Lafer (Middle)



Briefing session at UFPE

NEWS FROM JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES



Evaluation of Seamanship

Simulator-based education and on-board ship training are major components of the curriculum in maritime education. Designed for students wishing to gain a navigator's license, the curriculum also stresses the development of leadership and seamanship skills. Much like the keel of a ship, this will prove the foundation on which students are able to achieve success.

Along with its friendship-schools, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) and the California Maritime Academy (CMA), part of the California State University system, and supported by International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), the Faculty of Maritime Sciences at Kobe University is aiming for a new educational evaluation system that stresses physiological responses. The basis for this research originated in collaboration between Kobe University and the Maine Maritime Academy (U.S.) between 2008-09.

The research project titled "Evaluation of Bridge Teammates' Mental Workload for Simulator-based Training Using Physiological Indices" found that keys to successful training were: simulator training, common/individual skills, team work and monitoring the mental workload of students. This project stressed the evalua-

tion of the mental workload of bridge teammates, which stands in contrast to previous evaluation methods that depend on the subjective value of physical performance. The assessment of both physical and mental performance is the best way of evaluating performance.

The goal of this project is to develop a method of simulator-based education and training using a physiological index able to read characteristics of a navigator's common and individual skills (sense) and to evaluate teamwork and the role mental well-being plays in a team's handling of a ship. Kobe University evaluates a seafarer's mental workload by monitoring his heart rate variability, saliva flow, and facial temperature. TUMSAT evaluates a seafarer's performance index by using a thermograph able to measure facial temperature. CMA conducts performance evaluations on the basis of simulator-based education and training. Research collaboration will lead to continued success in advancing these methods of evaluation.

This research project involved both undergraduate and graduate students. Team members from Kobe University, TUMSAT, and CMA will continue their collaboration in the coming years.



Meeting and Simulator-based Experiment at CMA



Ship Bridge Simulator of CMA

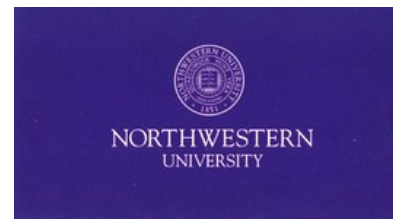


Research and Development of a Detection Method for Solid-surface Vibrations with Ultrahigh Nanometer Spatio- and Picosecond Temporal-resolutions

The Laboratory of Applied Solid State Physics at Hokkaido University has been studying ultrashort ultrasonic pulses generated and detected by ultrafast pulse lasers, and studying their related sciences and technologies. They are one of the pioneering groups of laser picosecond ultrasonics, and they have developed an imaging method of surface acoustic waves on solids. They also study artificial materials called photonic crystals and acoustic metamaterials. For more details on their studies, please visit their website (<http://kino-ap.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/>).

Dr. Motonobu Tomoda, Assistant Professor of the laboratory, will be staying at the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois from April 2015 to January 2016. He plans to research and develop a novel method to detect high frequency laser-generated ultrasound on solid surfaces with nanometer lateral resolutions by use of plasmonic nanofocusing probe tips, in collaboration with Prof. Balogun. This technique is called ultrasonic near-field optical microscopy, and has already achieved nanosecond temporal resolutions. The aim of this collaborative research is to improve it towards picosecond temporal resolutions. Related to their study, the 4th International Symposium on Laser Ultrasonics and Advanced Sensing (LU2015) will also be held at Northwestern University from June 28th to July 2nd, 2015 (<http://www.lu2015.org>).

If you are interested in their research, please feel free to contact Dr. Tomoda (mtomoda@eng.hokudai.ac.jp) during his stay at Northwestern University.



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INTERVIEW WITH JSPS FELLOW IN THE U.S.



DR. HIROKI OTA

2014 | JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad at University of California, Berkeley
 2011-2014 | JSPS Research Fellow (PD) at Tokyo Women's Medical University
 2011 | Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Keio University
 2009 - 2011 | JSPS Research Fellow (DC2)
 2007 | M. Eng. in Applied Physics, Keio University
 2005 | B. Eng. in Applied Physics, Keio University

Hiroki Ota received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Keio University in 2011, and then joined the Tokyo Women's Medical University-Waseda University Joint Institution for Advanced Biomedical Sciences as a JSPS postdoctoral fellow. He focused on the development of a new type of microelectromechanical system (MEMS) or Micro Total Analysis Systems (microTAS) for biological research based on mechanical or fluidic points of view. Since April of 2013, he has been working in Ali Javey's laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley through a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship for research abroad. His current interest is in the development of flexible sensors using liquid metal or carbon nanotube composite. He hopes to contribute to industries and/or societies by applying his research to actual applications in the future.

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

I was hoping to gain first-hand knowledge on the management of laboratories and universities in the U.S. that maintain a high quality of education and productivity of research.

Based on a report by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the publication numbers in the U.S. are a few times more than Japan's. In addition, I often heard from people who have experienced life in the U.S. that they could get more results or focus on research. So I came here to observe and gain knowledge into the system and management of a laboratory and university with high levels of research productivity and educational quality.

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

Firstly, relationships are equal in our laboratory regardless of age and/or status. Prof. Javey expects us to be "professional" in research or laboratory life. In order to satisfy that expectation, we are required to have a high level of motivation towards our research and try to make

devices and write papers to the best of our abilities. Therefore, members share their opinions without restraint.

Secondly, grants are mainly used for employing researchers and/or students, not for equipment or disposables.

Finally, there are a lot of discussions with the PI. Members have a meeting with the PI twice a week at least, and it's easy to talk with the PI and senior researchers. This indicates we can perform an experiment in the most efficient way and get the best direction based on the PI's and other researcher's experience and knowledge.

The high performance in conducting research might be attributed to these three factors.

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

I learned a lot from Prof. Javey including how to enjoy research, write a good paper, make the right career choice and so forth. In terms of research, I could extend my field, mechanical engineering, to sensor technologies based on nano-materials and electric engineering. In addition, Prof. Javey gave me a lot of opportunities to collaborate and discuss my research with professors. I could make a good connection with a lot of people including world-renowned professors.

It might be difficult to apply the whole high productivity system I mentioned earlier to universities or societies in Japan because Japan has its own culture and university system. However, I will be able to provide many learning opportunities to expand students' viewpoints and increase opportunities to discuss and communicate with students just like the laboratories in the U.S.

In the end, I appreciate JSPS giving me the opportunity to conduct research in the U.S. and broaden my knowledge at the University of California, Berkeley, and Prof. Ali Javey for teaching and helping me with my research.

OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

Farewell to Our Adviser

Mr. Yohei Takahashi has completed his commitment to JSPS San Francisco for 1 year and 9 months as an Adviser and is returning to Japan at the end of March.

During his term, he advised and supported the operations of the office and was mainly in charge of building new business dealings with Latin American countries. He visited countries such as Brazil and Mexico five times to build firm relationships between JSPS and their government-affiliated agencies and research universities. He also collected valuable information on science in these countries which is only available on-site. That information will be used to enhance further academic collaboration between Japan and Latin American countries. Finally he wrote two reports about science and universities especially in Brazil known as the "JSPS Country Reports."

Furthermore, he conducted research on the education and research systems in the U.S. as a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley). He provided many significant reports for JSPS and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT) regarding the board of education and school district systems, the Master Plan for Higher Education in California, the governance systems of the University of California, particularly at UC Berkeley, and the effect of government shutdowns and Obama Care on academia.

He will be transferred to a position related to higher education policy at MEXT. He wants to use the experiences he gained here to enhance his work after going back to Japan. All of us at JSPS San Francisco appreciate his warm support and wish him all the best in his future endeavors!



JSPS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES

Postdoctoral Fellowship for North American and European Researchers

Short-term (1-12 months)

http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral_short.html

Application period: April 6-10, 2015

*Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., Canada, European Union countries, Switzerland, Norway or Russia. Applications must be submitted to JSPS Headquarters by host researchers in Japan.

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers

Standard (12-24 months)

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

Application period: April 28-May 8, 2015

*Applications must be submitted to JSPS Headquarters by host researchers in Japan.

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Researchers in the U.S.

Short-term (1-12 months)

<http://jpsusa.org/wp/fellowship/short-term>

Application deadline: April 17, 2015

*Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or those conducting research in the U.S. (Please consult the link above for further information). Applications must be submitted to JSPS Washington Office by candidates.

Invitation Fellowships for Research in Japan

Short-term (14-60 days)

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

Application period: April 28-May 8, 2015

*Applications must be submitted to JSPS Headquarters by host researchers in Japan.

Farewell to Our Program Coordinators

Takayuki Kurahashi and Makiko Toyoda have fulfilled their 1 year training as Program Coordinators at JSPS San Francisco. Returning to Japan at the end of March, they start working for the universities which they each belong to. Here are some comments from our Program Coordinators about their stay in the U.S.

Takayuki Kurahashi (from Kochi University of Technology)

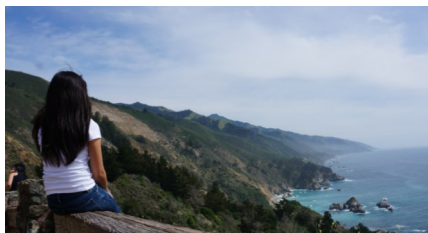
My one year stay in the U.S. has been very exciting. We hosted several joint symposia with universities in the U.S. and quite a few researchers' gatherings. I had the opportunity to learn from a lot of researchers about their research content, research environment, and challenges they faced conducting research here. In addition, I was able to study about the higher education system in the U.S. through activities such as the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA).

I had trouble communicating in English in my daily life, but the people in Berkeley treated me with warmth and kindness. I found this to be a common character of the people in the U.S. (especially California), where many different kinds of people live. At first, I was overwhelmed with anxiety before coming here but now I like the U.S. very much. I was able to visit Las Vegas, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. during my stay here. These visits are my never-to-be-forgotten memories. In the end, I want to express my deep appreciation for JSPS, Kochi University of Technology and everyone who supported me through this training.



Makiko Toyoda (from Hitotsubashi University)

Working at JSPS San Francisco was a great experience for me. Supporting the activities of the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) was a huge part of my work, and carrying out its biggest event, the JUNBA 2015 Symposium and Summit, was overwhelming yet very exciting and rewarding. Promoting JSPS fellowship programs to U.S. based researchers and editing this office newsletter also gave me a chance to learn and grow as a university administrative staff. Through my work at JSPS San Francisco, I have met many researchers and administrators who work for universities and research institutions, both U.S. and Japanese, and their passion for research and education was truly amazing and inspiring. Lastly, I would like to thank all the people who supported me throughout this training period. I could not have made it through without the kind support from my friends and colleagues.



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