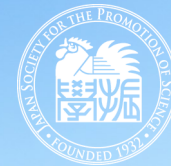


JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER

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PAST EVENTS

29th Gathering of JSPS Fellows from Japan in the U.S. and 10th Meeting for Japanese University Faculty Members in the U.S.



JSPS San Francisco held the 29th gathering of JSPS fellows from Japan in the U.S. on July 11, 2015 at the Doe library of the University of California, Berkeley. The gathering is held two to three times a year for researchers in the U.S. participating on Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad, Research Fellowships for Young Scientists, and other JSPS programs which promote the international mobility of excellent young researchers. The 10th meeting for Japanese university faculty members in the U.S. was held jointly this time, and 33 researchers, including 18 JSPS fellows, attended the event.

The meeting started with a warm greeting from Prof. Masayuki Izutsu, Director of JSPS San Francisco, followed

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by a self-introduction by each researcher including their current research activities, with a short Q&A session following. In addition, guest speaker Dr. Akihiro Asahara, CEO, Fixstars Solutions Inc., briefly introduced his company and shared his experience and advice on pursuing a career as a researcher and engineer in Japan and as a business man in the U.S.

After the presentations, the participants divided into three groups and discussed what support is necessary for improvement of the Japanese research capacity. The event concluded successfully with comments from Dr. Izutsu. Participants appreciated this opportunity to network with researchers from different fields, backgrounds, and career stages and share their experiences in the U.S. and views on their future research and career.

JSPS-NUT-UG Joint Symposium held in Guanajuato, Mexico

From September 17 to 19, JSPS San Francisco, the University of Guanajuato (UG), and Nagaoka University of Technology held a joint symposium on the theme of “Japan-Mexico Global Innovation on Practical Engineering Education and Research in University-Company-Governmental Cooperation” at the Poliforum León and UG Irapuato-Salamanca Campus in Guanajuato, Mexico.

The objective of this symposium was to promote interaction between entrepreneurs, enterprises and scientific research communities to establish the commercial feasibility of technological developments.

The symposium began with opening remarks by Antonio Vega Corona (Director General, CONCYTEG), Toru Shimizu (Minister, Embassy of Japan in Mexico), and Dr. Masayuki Izutsu (Director of JSPS San Francisco). Over two days, 10 people, including four from Japan, presented their papers on research and enterprises.

Topics covered include, but are not limited to:

Advanced In-process Control of Tube Hydroforming for Light Weight Components; Ultrasonic Technology for Advanced Cleaning; and Learning Robotics through Robot Sumo Education. Also, JSPS San Francisco held an information booth to inform researchers and students of research opportunities in Japan.

On the final day, the symposium began with welcome remarks by Dr. Ernesto Alfredo Camarena Aguilar (Rector of UG Campus Irapuato-Salamanca). Some topics covered include academia-industry collaboration and an introduction of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Nagaoka University of Technology. A short presentation on JSPS fellowship programs was also given by JSPS San Francisco staff members.

The symposium prompted interaction between Japanese and Mexican scholars and helped broaden everyone’s knowledge and understanding on the theme.



Prof. Iwasaki



Audience at the symposium

JSPS-CJS Joint Symposium held at UC Berkeley

On September 30-October 1, JSPS San Francisco and the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS), University of California, Berkeley held a joint symposium on the theme of “Perspective on 70 Years of the Nuclear Age: From Berkeley, a Birthplace of the Atomic Bomb” at the Berkeley City Club.

The symposium started with opening remarks by Dr. Dana Buntrock (Chair of CJS), Dr. Joonhong Ahn (Vice chair of CJS/Department of Nuclear Engineering) and Dr. Masayuki Izutsu (Director of JSPS San Francisco). Six sessions took place over two days on the following five themes: Before Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Impacts on Political Powers; Nuclear Technologies; Impacts on Humans; Toward a Nuclear-free world.

This symposium examined the various opinions of both Japan and United States about nuclear technologies and histories. Experts in the nuclear energy field from Japan and the U.S. presented their research and shared their views on the past, present and future of nuclear energy in an open, cross-disciplinary exchange.

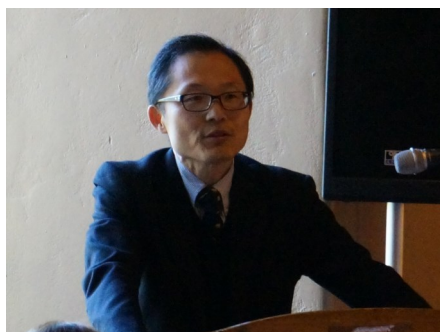
Presentations began with the political and scientific history of the nuclear industry in Japan and the US and how it influenced the ethical and scientific challenges we face today.

More than 80 researchers, community members and UC Berkeley students attended from both Japan and the U.S. over the course of two days. The symposium provided a valuable opportunity for multi-disciplinary discussions on the topic of nuclear technologies and successfully promoted collaborative research between Japanese and U.S. researchers.

JSPS San Francisco will continually support such symposiums, which inspire and broaden networks between academia and societies which will lead to further robust collaboration between Japan and the U.S.



Panel discussion among speakers



Prof. Ahn



Prof. Wake



Dr. Davis (middle)

NEWS FROM JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES



Global OTEC Innovation through Japan-U.S. cooperation as Global Leaders

Yasuyuki Ikegami
Professor, Deputy Director
Institute of Ocean Energy, Saga University

In June 2013, on Kumejima in Okinawa Prefecture, power generation began at the world's first fully functional 100kW class onshore Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) facility (1). There has been a great response at home and abroad with visits from more than 4000 people from more than 40 countries so far. On August 21 2015, the United States launched the world's largest OTEC plant (105kW) on Kona in Hawaii at a large ceremony with Hawaii Governor Ige and the Department of Energy (Figure 1). As of this moment, Japan and the United States are leading the world in this technology. During the opening ceremony, Governor Ige stated, "I will be traveling to Okinawa and Japan later on this year to renew our sister state relationship as communities and more importantly in the renewable energies space because I believe that our countries working together really will accelerate the development of OTEC as a viable firm energy, renewable energy source for the world."

OTEC is a renewable energy technology that utilizes the roughly 20°C temperature difference between surface sea water and sea water from a depth of 600-1000m to generate electricity. In particular, since sea water temperatures are relatively stable, power can be generated 24 hours a day, unlike solar and wind power. Post-OTEC water and power can also be used for sea-water desalination and hydrogen production, with other applications in the aquaculture and agriculture sectors leading to job growth and new industries through composite use.

For many years, OTEC was discussed as "technically possible, [but] difficult due to the economics," but with changes in technological advancement and social environment since 2008, large projects have started in Japan, the United States, France, South Korea, and China. In particular, the United States and France have announced the development of 10MW class construction plans. Japan is reputed to lead the world in the research and development of fields such as the power

generation cycle, heat exchanger, and system control (2).

In this environment, since 2010, the US and Japan have held OTEC workshops under the Hawaii-Okinawa Clean Energy Partnership agreement which has gained worldwide attention. In the past, these workshops have been held alternately on Kume Island and Kona with the sixth held in August 2015. During the most recent workshop, Japan and the United States agreed to continue technical cooperation towards the development of a 1MW plant.

On October 11, 2015, US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy visited the Okinawa Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Demonstration Facility and the Saga University Institute of Ocean Energy Kumejima Satellite (Figure 2). From Ambassador Kennedy we received hope for the continued development of US and Japan OTEC and an expanded interest in related achievements.

In the future, though OTEC technology has been nurtured in the United States and Japan, there remains a particular desire to contribute to the mitigation of global environmental issues and energy problems such as those in the island regions.





Figure 1 – OTEC Power Generation Opening Ceremony in Kona, Hawaii (Governor Ige second from right) (August 21, 2015)



Figure 2 – Ambassador Kennedy’s visit to the Okinawa Prefecture OTEC Demonstration Facility and IOES Satellite (October 11, 2015)

Reference

1. The Public Relations Office of the Government of Japan, Degrees of Power-the Vast Potential of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion-Highlighting JAPAN, #80 October,(2014)
2. NEDO、Renewable Energy Technology White Paper (2013)

OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

Introducing New Deputy Director and Senior Advisor from MEXT

Junji Oshima arrived at JSPS San Francisco on July 1st as the 7th Deputy Director and he is excited to work in the U.S. He has been engaged in international research cooperation for over twenty years and is familiar with JSPS international programs. In 2000, he also participated in the Intensive English Program at the University of Warwick in the UK for six months. Because of these experiences, he is able to have this valuable opportunity to work at JSPS SF.

His mission as Deputy Director is to manage office staff, undertake projects with the Director, organize symposia with US universities, strengthen the network of Japanese researchers in the US, and introduce JSPS programs, particularly fellowship programs, to US researchers.

He hopes to visit as many US universities and educational/research institutions as possible and talk to faculty and staff members to expand his view and to build personal connections. Outside of work, he likes outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, cycling and driving. He is looking forward to enjoying California life with his family and friends under the blue sky!



Naruhito Ishimaru arrived at the University of California, the Office of the President (UCOP) as a fellow on August 15th. UCOP and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT) have had an exchange program for more than a decade. Mr. Yutaka Tokiwa, currently Director-General of Higher Education Bureau in Japan, was the first participant in this program, and since then twelve brilliant staff of MEXT have participated. Ishimaru is the 14th fellow visiting UCOP.

He has over 17 years' experience working in the public sector. He served as Unit Chief at the MEXT Division for University Affairs and was instrumental in the initial integration of Japanese National Universities. He also served as First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Thailand for three years (2006-2009) and promoted student and academic exchange between two countries. He worked together with the JSPS Bangkok Office at that time. He then served as Deputy Director-General at the Ishikawa Prefectural Government for three and a half years (2010-2013) and was responsible for Higher Education and UN Affairs, contributing to the development of the University Consortium. Recently, he served as Director of the Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Properties and was responsible for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage from 2014 to 2015. He has been serving as Senior Advisor for JSPS San Francisco Office by utilizing his rich experience.



(Right)

He has beautiful memories in the United States. He held his wedding at the Virginia University Chapel in 2002. As a hobby, he became a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor in Hawaii in 2003. He is delighted to work with UCOP, which is responsible for one of the most prestigious university systems in the world. He sincerely hopes to contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between not only UCOP and MEXT but also the United States and Japan.

Introducing New International Program Intern and Liaison Officer

Nobutake Niita joined the JSPS San Francisco Office as International Program Intern at the beginning of July 2015 and will stay for two years. Prior to JSPS, he was working for the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture) for eight years. His last position in KEK was in the international affairs division. There, he worked on organizing scientific cooperation agreements with institutes from European and Asian countries, assisting collaboration funding management for KEK's international project, T2K and BELLE II, and planning visit proposals for government officials from foreign countries.

Nobutake lived in the state of Ohio for eight years during his childhood, so he is very surprised by the climate difference between here and there. Now he is looking forward to his second stay in the U.S. and the experiences he will have here on the West Coast.



Lauren Nakasato joined the JSPS San Francisco Office as Liaison Officer in mid-August and has been enjoying supporting her Japanese colleagues in their work promoting international research collaboration. She has lived and worked in Japan for over six years, first as an Assistant Language Teacher on the JET (Japan Education and Teaching) Program in Okayama, and then as the Resident Director of the CET Intensive Language and Culture Program in Osaka.

She is thrilled to maintain ties with Japan while working in a forward-thinking environment devoted to educational advancement, and hopes to be able to provide the support necessary for the smooth running of the JSPS SF Office.

A Bay Area native, she is excited to (re)explore everything The Bay has to offer with her colleagues, helping them to adjust to California life. Whether trying new jogging routes, singing karaoke, or discovering local cafes, Lauren loves staying active and experiencing new things. With a passion for Japanese language, society, and cultural exchange, she is in constant search of opportunities to deepen her understanding. She is looking forward to a productive and fulfilling tenure at JSPS San Francisco.



Farewell to Our Liaison Officer, Julie Keiko Beal



Julie Beal has worked for JSPS San Francisco office for over 8 years from May 2007 to August 2015. Having a Japanese mother and living in Japan during her childhood, she had a special understanding for working with her Japanese colleagues. After graduating university, she lived in Japan again for two years through the JET Program (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program). As the link between the two cultures, she maintained balance and understanding in our office from both a Japanese and American perspective. After completing her contract with JSPS San Francisco Office, Julie will enter graduate school to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is making a complete career change and hopes to become a licensed social worker specializing in palliative care. She is excited to begin this next chapter in her life and thanks everyone at JSPS for the wonderful experience of working here.



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Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
 San Francisco Office
 2001 Addison St., #260, Berkeley, CA 94704
 Email: webmaster@jpspsusa-sf.org

