



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science San Francisco Office

2001 Addison St, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

## Events of Summer & Fall 2007

### San Francisco Office Holds Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows

On 27 July, JSPS's San Francisco Office held its seventh "Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows." 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 22 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 the meeting, San Francisco Office director Prof. Seishi Takeda offered a toast to kick off the confab among the participants. In a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere, they engaged each other in conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the US. Time was also set aside for the participants to introduce themselves and briefly describe their research work. Giving them a context to delve deeper into each other's work, this further energized their discussions, which continued on even after Prof. Takeda gave his closing remarks. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the US.



### Kagoshima University and Keio University Students visit JSPS SF Office



On September 21<sup>st</sup>, twenty Japanese graduate and undergraduate students along with Prof. Hiroki Yoshida, President of Kagoshima University and staff members visited the JSPS San Francisco Office. Dr. Seishi Takeda, director of our office, explained JSPS's outline and introduced its programs such as fellowships for young researchers and Grants-in-Aid for scientific research. They listened intently to his talk and some of them asked questions in the middle of his lecture. They were interested in how to review systems of research programs and how to get grants and support for post docs, so most of their questions focused on these matters. Dr. Takeda also talked about the history of Silicon Valley. They sometimes laughed and nodded their heads, showing that they enjoyed his interesting talk. After that, they took a tour of UC Berkeley to observe a traditional state university. The students and staff members engaged in casual conversation with their guides. We hope that this event inspired their interest in the U.S. and eagerness about their research prospects here.

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### Inside this issue:

Events of Summer & Fall 2008:	1
Gathering of Japanese fellows/ Students visit SF Office/ The Opening Seminar of YCU CA Office	
Events of Winter 2008:	2
JUNBA2008	
Bay Area & Japan Related News:	3
"Ishikawa Prefectural University"/ "Kobe University"	
Interview with JSPS Fellow:	4
"Dr. Ryuya Fukunaga"	
Upcoming Events of 2008:	
Gathering of Japanese fellows	

### The Opening Seminar of Yokohama City University California Office

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 marked a major milestone in the development of Yokohama City University. YCU opened its first overseas branch office on November 1<sup>st</sup> in order to enhance its international academic-industrial collaboration by developing research in various fields, especially in medicine, bio-technology and nanotechnology,. Their office is located within Marubeni America Corporation's Silicon Valley Office in Santa Clara, California.

After special remarks by Hiroshi Nakada, Mayor of Yokohama City, there were presentations from two YCU faculty members about their unique research projects and YCU's industrial collaborations. This was followed by a panel discussion on: The Melting Pot as Innovation Crucible: Infrastructure as a Determinant of Science and Technology Development in Silicon Valley.



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**Japanese University Network in the Bay Area**

# **JUNBA2008**

## **Summit, Symposium and Technology Fair**

**DATE** **January 10 (THU), 11 (FRI)**

Summit and Symposium

Technology Fair

**Location : Hyatt Regency Santa Clara**

(5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054)

Organized by: JUNBA

Co-organized by: Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco  
JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)  
JETRO San Francisco

Sponsored by: Sughrue Mion PLLC  
Sony Electronics Inc

Supported by: JBC (Japan Bio Community)  
JCCNC (Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California)  
JSNC (Japan Society of Northern California)  
JTPA (Japanese Technology Professionals Association)  
Keizai Society  
SVJEN (Silicon Valley Japanese Entrepreneur Network)  
SVMF (Silicon Valley Multimedia Forum)

Hokkaido University  
Kagoshima University  
Kyoto University  
Kyushu University  
Nagoya University  
Nara Institute of Science and Technology  
Osaka University  
Ritsumeikan University

Tohoku University  
Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology  
Tokyo University of Science  
The University of Tokyo  
University of Yamanashi  
Yokohama City University

**[www.junba.org](http://www.junba.org)**



## Ishikawa Prefectural University's International Symposium:

### Can Direct Income Payment Policies Create Efficient Farms, Protect Agricultural Multifunctionality such as Food Security, and Be Neutral to Production?

This International Symposium held by Ishikawa Prefectural University was held on October 19, 2007 at Kanazawa Citizen's Cultural Hall in Kanazawa, Japan as a part of the 57th annual meeting of the Association of Regional Agriculture and Forestry Economics (ARAFE).

The liberalization of agricultural policy and agricultural trade in the world started from the GATT AoA in 1993. Since then, tariffication in agricultural trade and reduction of the tariff toward zero level as well as change in agricultural policy measures from coupled ones such as price support to decoupled ones such as direct income payment have been done in many countries. Japanese agricultural policy is also making a significant change of this type from 2007. In the decoupled policy, the Japanese government gives

direct income payment only to large scale individual farms and hamlet farms. This large-farm-selective nature of the direct income payment policy and big decline of agricultural price caused by liberalization will lead to departure of millions of very small and aged family farms from agriculture, a large decline in food self-sufficiency and food security in Japan. The Luxemburg Agreement on reform of the CAP has decoupled all the direct payments from production after 2005. The EU farmers can receive their payments regardless of their production as long as they maintain their land in accordance with basic standards for environment, food safety, animal health and welfare and good agricultural and environmental conditions after 2005. Theoretical and empirical studies of the impacts of this policy change to agricultural production and efficiency have been done in Ireland, France, the UK, and other countries. In the United States direct income payment policy has been introduced by the 1996 agricultural law, but price support element in the agricultural policy has been maintained by the loan rate measure, and about 80 billion dollars of additional farm income support has been done during 1999 and 2007. In Korea, many kind of direct income payment policies have been conducted since 1997. The share of the policies to the total agricultural budget has increased to reach 13.6% in 2005.

The nationwide direct income support policy started in China in 2004. It represents a transformation from the century old policy objective of taxing agriculture to subsidizing it. Its objectives were to decrease rural urban income inequality and to increase grain production. In this international symposium we compared and discussed the effects of these direct farm income payment policies and liberalization policies to farm efficiency, agricultural production, and the agricultural multi-functionalities such as food security, rural landscape, rural employment and maintenance of rural society and culture, rural urban income equity, conservation of and other impacts to water, soil, environment, and flood control, etc. in Japan, Korea, China, Ireland, and the United States, from both theoretical and empirical viewpoints. We also reached some recommendations about necessary modifications of the direct farm income payment policies and structural adjustment policies in each country.

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## Kobe University North America Week 2007

<http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/northamerica-week/en/index.htm>

■ **Theme:** Contribution toward Sustainable Development through International Exchange

■ **Purport**

Since 2003, Kobe University has designated one week during the autumn term as "Kobe University Week" to promote international academic and cultural exchange activities as well as to disseminate information related to the area featured. The previous four Kobe University Weeks featured EU in 2003, ASEAN in 2004, EU again in 2005, and East Asia in 2006.

The year 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the Seattle-Kobe sister city relationship. Taking this great opportunity, "Kobe University Week", held from November 11 to November 15, 2007, featured North America, centering on our partnership with University of Washington, which is located in Seattle. A total of four universities from North America participated in this

event organized by Kobe University Office for the Promotion of International Exchange (OPIE-KU) to discuss and exchange views on the theme of "sustainable development", a shared goal of all humanity.

The concept of sustainable development encompasses virtually all aspects of human existence such as society, economy, culture, and natural sciences. It covers a vast range of issues, including the conservation of natural environment, peace and security, the reduction of poverty, relief provision and reconstruction aid to areas affected by natural disasters, food security, and cross-cultural understanding.

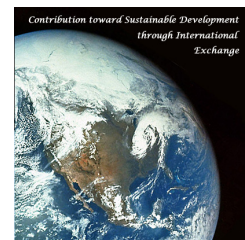
As two of the key players in the world economy and politics, North America and Japan play leading roles in addressing the aforementioned global issues. Accordingly, active exchange of ideas between universities in the two regions is crucial, for they hold the key to the fostering of human resources which will take future leadership roles in each region.

At the dawn of the 21st century, with the aim of addressing global issues, the UN Millennium Summit adopted the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, the basic concept of which is sustainable development. Subsequently, Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) were created as a road map to achieve substantial results by the year 2015. In the field of education, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) was launched in 2005.

As a higher educational institution for promoting highly advanced research and education, as well as for fostering human resources with leadership abilities, Kobe University believes it must actively contribute to sustainable development. In order to create and develop a global sustainable society, it is essential for people from many diverse regions to discuss concrete actions based on the concept of "think globally, act locally".

During Kobe University North America Week 2007, people from participating universities from many parts of North America and Hyogo Prefecture engaged in a wide range of symposiums and panel discussions held at Rokko and Centennial Hall at Kobe University, seeking to contribute to sustainable development, a noble objective shared by all peoples throughout the globe, through international exchange.



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

### Ryuya Fukunaga's Interview

Dr. Ryuya Fukunaga is conducting research in the field of structural biology and biochemistry in Professor Jennifer Doudna's laboratory in the Molecular and Cell Biology department at UC Berkeley in the U.S. After having received his PhD at the University of Tokyo, he came to UC Berkeley in April 2007 as a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad.

His research background is structural biology (X-ray crystallography). Almost all of the biological activities within cells are performed by proteins. Structural biology is the field where a researcher tries to know the mechanism of how a protein of interest works at atomic level by determining its 3-D structure. This approach is often compared to seeing inside a black box, where a complicated biological reaction is performed. He is now interested in the RNA interference (RNAi) pathway. In RNAi, small non-coding RNA molecules repress the expression of proteins. The Nobel Prize was awarded to the discoverers of RNAi phenomenon in 2006. Using the structural biology technique, Dr. Fukunaga is trying to elucidate the mechanism of RNAi at atomic level. His current project is to determine the 3-D structure of the proteins involved in the RNAi pathway.

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

The U.S. is the world's leading country in the life science field. It attracts and gathers lots of excellent researchers from all over the world. I wanted to do research in such an environment. Actually, all of

the members in my lab are very good scientists. I can feel I am trained in a stimulating environment everyday.

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

There are some functional systems here in UC Berkeley. One of them is core facilities; some of the laboratories and sometimes departments share experimental equipments and service that are too expensive to have in single laboratory. Thus, we can easily access those things.

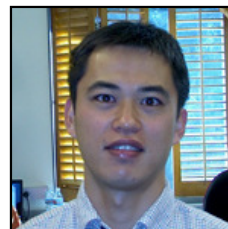
The biggest difference is that nationalities of my lab members are various (more than 10). It is significantly different from my old lab in Japan where almost all of the members were Japanese. Also, everyone here in the U.S. works fewer hours than in Japan. They work hard when they do research, but they also enjoy their own lives outside laboratory. They do not usually work until late or on weekend, unlike many PhD students and postdocs (including me) in Japan. They may be good at managing time.

#### What merit do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

First of all, doing research in English is very good, since English is the common language in the science field. Although I have difficulty with English, I feel it is improving little by little in daily life. Experiencing various cultures and ways of life are also good for my research and personal life. In addition, by knowing those different cultures, I better understand the good points about Japan, such

as the high quality of their products and service and the diligence of the Japanese people.

**What is your dream? And do you have any advice for young researchers about doing research abroad?** My dream is to become a scientist who is leading and even expanding one's field. I want to discover fact and mechanism that no one had ever imagined. Also, I always want to enjoy science. Although conducting research is sometimes very tough, especially when positive results cannot be produced for a long time, I want to value the mind of enjoying science. I would like to advise young researchers that "If you really like and enjoy doing research, you will enjoy it abroad too!" Living abroad as well as doing research abroad is very fun.



**Dr. Ryuya Fukunaga**

MS (Biophysics and Biochemistry) Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, Japan, 2004

JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (DC1) 2004-2006

Ph.D. (Biophysics and Biochemistry) Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, Japan, 2007

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad at Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California Berkeley, U.S. 2007-

### JSPS San Francisco Office Moves to a New Location



before



after

JSPS San Francisco has moved out of 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 920, and moved to a new location at 2001 Addison Street, Suite 260, in Berkeley. The move took place on a sunny day on the last Saturday of September. The entire JSPS office staff was there to make sure that the move went smoothly, along with the help of the moving company.

We officially began working out of our new office on Monday, October 1st. The first week in was spent unpacking and reorganizing. Our new building is three stories high, and the entire first floor of the building is occupied by UC Berkeley. Our spacious office is only a few blocks from our old location. It is just a 5-minute walk from the downtown Berkeley Bart station and is right in the heart of downtown Berkeley, surrounded by many restaurants, theaters and shops. Please come visit us!

### Upcoming Events of Winter 2008

#### The 8<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Japanese fellows February 8th

JSPS San Francisco Office will hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Gathering of JSPS fellow. The purpose is to provide the Japanese researchers in the U.S. with a good opportunity to share useful information, promote the exchange of research in not just common research fields but in different research fields, and support network-building among these researchers. We had seven gatherings in the past, and this time, we will hold it in Boston, MA, in February. It is a free buffet style party. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers' participation.

#### JSPS San Francisco Office supports Nuclear Technology and Society – Needs for Next Generation

a joint international workshop organized by the Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California, Berkeley (UCBNE) and the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Management, University of Tokyo (UTNEM). This summit will be held from Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Faculty Club at the University of California, Berkeley.

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@jpspsusa-sf.org](mailto:webmaster@jpspsusa-sf.org).

Check out our website!

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