



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

## San Francisco Office

2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 920 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

### Director Dr. Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2006.

JSPS San Francisco Office marks its 3rd anniversary of the establishment in May 2006. The Office's academic exchange and cooperation programs cover not only the West Coast, but the whole of the United States, also Canada. Since its establishment, the Office has given special focus to the following three areas, "**holding colloquia with academic institutions**", "**introducing JSPS Fellowship Programs to promote science exchange**" and "**creating a network amongst Japanese fellows**". We are now taking upon a much bigger role in the development of good collaborative relationships between Japan and other countries. Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. We will strive to promote even further international science exchange across a wide spectrum of fields. In this endeavor, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and support.



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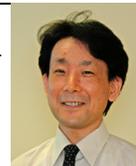
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### The Office Staff Switch

**JSPS San Francisco Office has welcomed three new Program Coordinators and one new Advisor.**

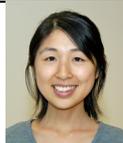
**Ryuji Koyama, as Advisor**, recently joined our office directly from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) in Japan. In the Office for Higher Education Policy in MEXT, Mr. Koyama gathered so much information about comparative higher education systems from North America, Europe, and Japan, his hobbies reflect his knowledge and interest. He hopes to visit campuses of UC, CSU, community colleges, and private universities to further his knowledge in the field. And personally Ryuji plans to learn about California wines (or wines in general), perfect driving in the U.S. (from left to right is a big change!), and using his extensive knowledge of higher education, be the best advisor and representative of JSPS as he possibly can. Bringing his nuclear family abroad with him has presented itself challenging but rewarding, especially for his children. This will be an unforgettable experience, so let's enjoy!



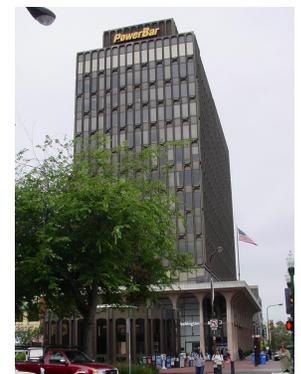
**Mitsuru Mizuno, as Program Coordinator**, is in charge of publicizing JSPS through the newsletter and website, and also helps coordinate co-held colloquia, this year with UC Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies, for example. In the Research Cooperation Division II at JSPS HQ, Mitsuru learned about the funding and review systems for researchers in Japan. He now wants to introduce Japanese science to the U.S., and at the same time visit as many places across the country as he can. His expectation of very friendly and talkative people here in California presented itself true, and is challenging him to use his English, meet new friends, and dream for the future. Good luck Mitsuru!



**Noriko Yokoi, as Program Coordinator**, joined our office to oversee accounting affairs, coordinate gatherings and visits by scholars, and investigate scientific trends in the U.S. With a Law degree from Kyoto University, Noriko joined JSPS in Tokyo. In the Research Cooperation Division II she coordinated events and programs with Germany. Learning official letter drafting in English, visitor hospitality, and education and research systems, Noriko was prepared for her new position here in our San Francisco Office. She wants to improve her English abilities and visit many places across the U.S. We're glad to have you Noriko. Kendama Queen!



**Eiji Kotani, as Program Coordinator**, promotes "JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs for North American and European Researchers". He first learned the importance of exchange amongst the Asian nations during his stint in the Asian Program Division at JSPS HQ. Now Eiji is interested in the international exchange of American universities, and plans to visit many different institutions to gather information for his final job report. Living in the U.S. has presented many challenges, like driving for example – but now driving is one of his many hobbies. Eiji also follows baseball, and hopes to see many baseball games during his time here. Go Team Tiny!



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# Events of Spring 2006



(Dr. Takeda, Toda, Mizuno with Consul General Yamanaka and his wife, and the Osaka University San Francisco Center, the Osaka Prefectural Government California Office)



(Toda and Caroline pose with the 2006 Cherry Blossom Queen pageant court)

## JSPS SF represents at 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California

Once again, the Japan Pavilion (group of Japanese organizations abridged by the Japan Information Center of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco) invited JSPS to participate in this year's exhibit in the Radisson Miyako Hotel, during the first two-day celebration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. San Francisco's Japantown was a flurry of Japanese cultural traditions, decorations, and fanfare. This year's festival attracted more than 150,000 people from all around the world. The Japan Pavilion, though inside the Miyako Hotel, still had a good circulation of visitors. Between the booths of the Japan Information Center and Osaka University San Francisco Office, JSPS San Francisco Office and its officers displayed a beautiful and informative booth – featuring JSPS brochures and information packets, fellowship guideline handouts, our newsletter, and the official JSPS DVD. The booth was constantly manned by the staff of our office. It was a good opportunity for JSPS to connect with new people, and for the newly arrived program coordinators to speak about JSPS in English. We look forward to this invitation again next year.

## SYMPOSIUM

## SUPPORT

### APRU/AEARU Research Symposium

Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim *Global Watch*  
and *Environmental Impact* April 21st & 22nd



On 21-22 April, a research symposium, titled "Earthquake Hazards Around the Pacific Rim—Global Watch and Environmental Impact" was held between the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU), two federations of leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region. Held in San Francisco, the symposium was carried out by UC Berkeley and Osaka University under the co-sponsorship of JSPS and other related organizations. It was linked to the various international conferences being held to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

The purpose of the symposium was to apply new research to the forecasting and prevention of disasters in the Asia-Pacific region while fostering partnership among the participating universities. In this vein, the results of research were presented on such topics as new sensing and monitoring technologies for earthquakes and other natural disasters, risk management on lifelines, damage mapping, and government response. In swapping knowledge on these and broader matters of regional concern, such as ways to reduce environmental loading, members

of the two collegial associations sought ways to advance cross-disciplinary joint research and to strengthen technical collaboration between their universities situated along the "Rim of Fire".

The total number of participants exceeded more than 90, including 20 attendees from the session opened to the public.

For the symposium's program, please see the website <http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/pdfs/APRU%20Symposium%20schedule.pdf>



Friday, April 21st – Saturday, April 22nd (2006)

# Events of Spring 2006

## A Live Lecture to Osaka University Students in Japan by Director Dr. Seishi Takeda

Osaka University's San Francisco Center is helping push the practical use of technology in international education to a higher level through live e-Learning sessions. Hosted from a high-tech multimedia studio in the center, they invite distinguished guests from the Bay Area to discuss a variety of cutting-edge fields with students back in Japan. These students also have a chance to benefit from lecturers' extensive experiences by participating in lively Q&A exchanges. (<http://www.osaka-u-sf.org/elearning.shtml>)

On June 8th and 15th, the director of JSPS San Francisco Office, Dr. Seishi Takeda, was invited to give the live lecture via TV Conference System. Using an abundance of photographs, Dr. Takeda began his lecture titled "Big Science and Global Cooperation", with a brief introduction of JSPS and the U.S. environment where he used to spend a life as a researcher. Starting with the pioneering achievement of students at Stanford University in wireless technology, he went on to say that spirit of challenge had played a large role in the development of Silicon Valley and generated a synergistic effect with that of young researchers at University of California, Berkeley. He explained, in conclusion, "big science" had been created here. All students were very impressed with the rich content of his lecture.



## REPORT OF UNIVERSITY VISIT

### STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Date : **Thursday, June 22nd, 2006**  
Where : **Stanford University, California**  
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center  
Encina Hall, Ground Floor Conference

On June 22nd, we visited Leland Stanford Junior University (most commonly known as Stanford University). It is located between San Francisco and San Jose, in the heart of Silicon Valley, and surrounded by many high technology companies and research institutes.

First, we toured a linear accelerator at SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center). The accelerator, which is two-miles in length, is used to conduct research in elementary particle physics.

After that, invited by Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), we listened to a lecture by Professor Masako Iino, president of Tsuda College. This event was co-sponsored by Stanford University Asia Pacific Research Center, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford Program on International and Cross-cultural Education (SPICE) and the Consulate General of



Thursday, June 22nd, 2006 (Linear Accelerator at SLAC)

Japan in San Francisco. In the lecture, which was opened to the public, about thirty people participated. The theme was "History of Japanese Americans and Their Contribution to the LARA Relief Activities in the Post-War Years." There were some questions and impressions from the participants, expressing their high interests in this theme.

- SLAC - <http://www.slac.stanford.edu/>
- SPICE - <http://spice.stanford.edu/>



## Tohoku University Announces Opening of Global Strategic Development Office in the heart of Silicon Valley, California, U.S.

Tohoku University announced that it opened a US representative office in Palo Alto, CA, on May 24, 2006. The U.S. Office aims to become an epicenter of collaborations for the University, overseas academia and other international communities.

(<http://www.tohoku-u.us>)

The U.S. Office was established for the following objectives:

- To promote research and educational achievements of the University to the US and Europe

- To become the innovative and structured epicenter of knowledge and wisdom originated from the University

- To strengthen its presence in the world by pursuing the mission (see below)

- To support the University to smoothly return the University's achievements to international communities.

Its mission includes:

- Supporting strategic application of research achievements to the world
- Supporting collaboration with overseas academia and international organizations (planning and holding symposiums and seminars; developing collaborative research and contract research)
- Supporting cooperative educational opportunities with overseas academia and international organizations for symposiums, distant

learning, e-learning, short- and long-term overseas education

- Supporting Tohoku University Global Promotion Center
- Supporting formation of an alumni organization in the US, and its activities

The Open House and the Opening Ceremony will be held (The schedule will be announced soon).

**“We are very excited about the opening of the US Office” says Tetsuo Shoji, Director of Tohoku University US Office. “The U.S. Office will spearhead the efforts to strengthen Tohoku University’s presence in the world as a leading collaborative research institution.”**

JSPS SF Office expects the Tohoku University US Office to carry out their mission sufficiently, and we are looking forward to making a strong relationship and having future collaborations with them.

## Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Opening of the Office for International Academic Strategy

Koji Miyazaki  
Vice President, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies  
Director, Office for International Academic Strategy

On September 1, 2005, **Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS)** opened the Office for International Academic Strategy (OFIAS-TUFS). OFIAS is one of the model projects of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) which has been promoting the globalization of Japan's universities. OFIAS will be responsible for developing TUFS's international strategies. In that context, OFIAS will undertake the operations of overseas bases, liaisons with overseas organizations, and the establishment of human

networks on a global scale. OFIAS will also work to accommodate researchers from overseas to promote exchanges of scholars as well as students, and contribute to the creation of a multilingual and multicultural campus. OFIAS will also be involved in the organization and support of international support activities conducted by TUFS. Through such activities, OFIAS will develop personnel who can contribute to the field of global academics in a variety of fields. TUFS is a unique university whose education and research activities cover languages, cultures and societies of virtually all areas of the globe. It is no overstatement to claim that all aspects of TUFS's research and educational activities are international. In particular, TUFS boasts a large stable of outstanding researchers in the field of Asian and African studies and in the field of Japanese language education. With these staff members, TUFS has long been cooperating with universities and research institutes outside Japan. TUFS currently maintains exchange programs with some 75 organizations in 35 countries worldwide involving countless researchers and students.

As part of our grand design, TUFS declares to serve as:

- 1. a base of higher learning related to the world's languages, cultures, and societies.**
- 2. an academic and cutting-edge research base for the world's languages, cultures, and societies.**
- 3. a global base for Japanese language education.**

Today, not only universities, but all of Japan is opening up to the outside world. We are convinced that TUFS, where dozens of languages are daily used, represents a model for research, education, and organizational administration in today's rapidly progressing multilingual and multicultural environment.

OFIAS will build on the foundation of TUFS's tradition and status. By undertaking international activities with greater strategy and organization, and by developing personnel capable of leading globalization, we will strive to make TUFS a university that interfaces and interacts with the 21<sup>st</sup> century global society.

<http://www.tufs.ac.jp/common/is/kenkyu/ofias.html>



## Advanced approach to personalized medicine based on oriental philosophy

In 2003, the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science adopted the COE program of **University of Toyama**, entitled "Advanced approach to personalized medicine based on oriental philosophy".

The concept of "oriental philosophy" is obviously part of our culture and has application in a wide range of disciplines, including traditional herbal drugs and medical technology. Mobilizing this concept, the purpose of our COE program is to create and systematize this "personalized medicine".

As part of this program, research is performed by three major

groups. The first is the clinical research group, which applies this concept of "oriental philosophy" to a number of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, climacteric syndrome, etc. Even if certain symptoms are classified into category by western medicine, they might be classified into sub-categories based on the theories of Kampo medicine. Metaphorically speaking, western and Kampo medicines might be thought of as geographic longitudes and latitudes, respectively, on a terrestrial globe. From this grid, most important are certain points where longitudes and latitudes cross. In order to clarify the characteristic features of these crossing points, our COE program has adopted a proteomics analysis system of patients' blood as one of the key research methods. The second is the basic research group, which examines pathologic conditions of animal models such as transgenic mice, etc., and also analyzes pharmacological actions of Kampo medi-

cines. In the third group, basic studies such as field studies on herbal drug resources on the Eurasian Continent are conducted, databases are compiled and released, and DNA microarrays for identification of natural medicines, etc., are developed.

**As mentioned above, this COE program is conducted to create a novel field in therapeutics based on personalized medicine through the fusion of two different paradigms, oriental and western medicines. Further, we cultivate human resources capable of carrying out advanced clinical and basic research based on the concept of "oriental philosophy", and we aim to bring the establishment of international research and education centers of traditional medicine and pharmacology to realization.**

<http://www.toyama-mpu.ac.jp/gd/ao/COE/en/index.html>



## University Education,

## Faculty Development and University Management by the Librarians ~ heading for the cooperation with teachers and staffs ~

In **Osaka Kyoiku University**, the librarian takes charge of university class. The librarian's name is "Noboru SAMUKAWA", and its class's name is "The practical use of information media". It is rare case in Japan.

The purpose of the class is to acquire the total knowledge about information media which is needed for school librarians with the object of the school library management. The number of the students is about 300. And they

evaluate that its class is very practical because he is familiar with library field and able to get the school librarian license. It gives them strong influences.

Next, in our library, **the librarians hold the "Faculty Development" in cooperation with teachers.** Its purpose is to motivate the librarians, advertise a library inside and outside of the university and improve the library services.

For example, a librarian who got training in University Library in Sweden in 2003 held the Faculty Development about the library services for foreign students in cooperation with a teacher in the foreign students center.

<http://www.bur.osaka-kyoiku.ac.jp/kikaku/gakuho/gakuho/04-natu/gakuhou04-natu08.html>

Moreover, in our university, **the librarians and teachers and staffs start up a project which aims to vitalize the university. The project's name is "Dream Project", they suggest various**

**kinds of ideas for improvements and innovations of the university.**

For example, the librarian who takes part in the project makes suggestion of the development of electronic informations about educations(ex. **academic institutional repository** <http://www.nii.ac.jp/metadata/irp/>) and the enrichment of information literacy educations by the librarians.

<http://www.bur.osaka-kyoiku.ac.jp/kikaku/news/0505/dreamp.html>

The project's activation is being showed at this blog site.

<http://yume.cc.osaka-kyoiku.ac.jp/dream/>

They are our University Education, Faculty Development and University Management by **the Librarians** -heading for the cooperation with teachers and staffs- And we are going to make the efforts to keep activations the above-mentioned.

*Osaka Kyoiku University Library*  
(<http://www.lib.osaka-kyoiku.ac.jp/>)  
*Librarian Mequmi UENO*

# Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

## Kaori Shiojiri's Interview

**Ms. Kaori Shiojiri communicates with plants, or at least she is trying to. She has research proving plants communicate to each other – impressive enough!**

Kaori spent two years on a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Davis, from 2003 to 2005. She is now on a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, this time traveling back and forth from UC Davis' Entomology Department to Kyoto University's Center for Ecological Research, every few months for the term of three years. She is continuing her research in plant-plant communication, specifically volatile response inducers, and has been working closely with the Silver Sagebrush and California Mugwort plants, both native to the U.S.

Kaori became interested in plant communication after studying plant-insect communication and insect behavior in graduate school. Learning how plant volatiles are affected by insects, she began teaching undergraduate students. **Kaori found teaching and promoting science very rewarding, but she loves researching, too. Her dream job would ideally be to work an equal balance of both,**

**and within the research spectrum, an equal balance of field work and lab work.**

**She speaks of her JSPS fellowships as the greatest experience of her life. Her time in the U.S. presented many challenges, culturally mostly.** Kaori has transitioned since her stints here; as she became more open-minded and free-speaking, she even noticed more efficiency within her laboratory because she was able to convey her true feelings more directly. She is very active, playing some kind of sport every day. Here in the States she also realized how fun pick-up games can be, not a very popular concept in Japan. And besides meeting and befriending "foreigners" in her mind, Kaori also realized the amazing opportunity given to fellows to network with many other Japanese researchers of various fields. She advises others to do the same, and knowing a little about one's own culture and history can go a long way when conversating.

Thank you Dr. Shiojiri, we wish you the best of luck in your research endeavors. Let's spread the word of 'science'!



**Dr. Kaori Shiojiri**

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad 2003-2005  
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### Upcoming Fellowship Deadlines

Please note that the upcoming deadlines for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Short-term) are :

**July 7th, 2006 & September 8th, 2006**

If you are interested in applying, please be sure to get your completed application to the JSPS SF Office at least **one week prior** to the above dates. JSPS SF can send your application directly to our headquarters!

## Upcoming Events of 2006

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering for Japanese fellows

**July 28 17:00-19:30**

JSPS San Francisco Office will hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering for JSPS fellowships.

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 four gatherings in the past, and this time, we will hold it in Berkeley, CA, in July. It is a free buffet style party. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers' participation.

*Hotel Durant 2600 Durant Avenue, Berkeley*

### Look out for the next JSPS/CJS Joint Colloquium—this October!

JSPS and CJS (Center for Japanese Studies, UC Berkeley) annually present.

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)