



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science San Francisco Office

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

EVENTS OF FALL 2009

Issue October 2009



Kagoshima University visits JSPS San Francisco Office for the 6th Silicon Valley Seminar

On September 17, Japanese graduate students and staff members from Kagoshima University visited JSPS San Francisco Office.



As one part of the 6th Silicon Valley Seminar, Dr. Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office, gave a lecture to encourage the young students from Kagoshima University and explained the history of Silicon Valley, which has been one of the biggest central areas for IT industry by the great efforts of young engineers.

Kagoshima University holds The 4th US - Japan Future Forum — The Rise of Modern Japan-

On September 18, Kagoshima University held its fourth US - Japan Future Forum in Palo Alto. JSPS San Francisco Office joined this forum as one of the supporters.

The theme of this forum was 'The Rise of Modern Japan'. The purpose of this forum was to explore what the young people of the next generation in Japan and the U.S. should do and to discuss the new relationship between Japan and the U.S.

This forum mainly consisted of two parts. The first part was the debrief session by Kagoshima University students. They visited institutions in Silicon Valley like Google headquarters and Stanford University to see leading-edge techniques. The second part was the special lecture and panel discussion. Panelists exchanged opinions about the future relationship between Japan and the United States, their roles in global society, and the expectations for the younger generation.

The forum was a great success with heated sessions and around 100 participants from various fields.



Volume XV

Inside this issue:

Events of Fall 2009	1-3
The Office Staff Switch	4
Announcement of Upcoming Event 2010	5
Bay Area & Japan Related News	6
Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.	7-8



Phone: 510-665-1890
Fax: 510-665-1891
Questions or Feedback?
Email: webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org

EVENTS OF FALL 2009

Public Symposium regarding Buddhism Held with UC Berkeley "Tracing the Study of Japanese Buddhism "

JSPS San Francisco Office convened a public symposium in co-sponsorship with UC Berkeley's Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) from Thursday, September 24th to Sunday, September 27th. Held in the Alumni House of University of California at Berkeley, the symposium addressed the theme "Tracing the Study of Japanese Buddhism". This was the first and biggest Japanese Buddhism event ever.

Forty-two Invited researchers from Japan, the U.S., and Canada, gave presentations focused on the topic of Buddhism and some related topics e.g. historical science, study of Religion, cultural anthropology and so on. The room was full of undergraduate students to senior researchers, as well as the general public.



Naoki Murata,
Executive Director of JSPS

The event started with remarks by Duncan Williams, CJS Chair Professor. He was followed by Naoki Murata, Executive Director of JSPS, who welcomed the participants. In the morning, keynote speeches were delivered and the first session held; another session was held in the afternoon.



Duncan Williams,
CJS Chair Professor

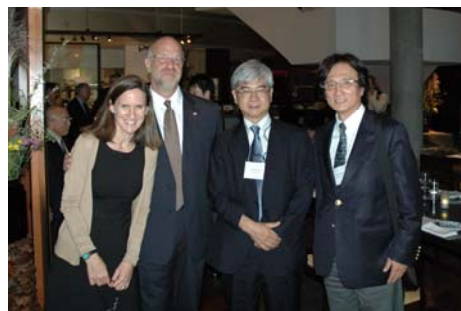
Each of the sessions featured paired presentations, followed by questions from the audience. Most of the presentations by guest speakers from Japan were convened on the first day and the third day.

On the second day, the participants visited "Green Gulch Zen Center", where the panel discussion and the field trip concerning zen were held.

This event provided the participants a good opportunity to exchange information for Buddhist studies not only between Japan and the U.S. but beyond the ages which the participants research.

The program of this event can be found on the following website:

<http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2009.09.25w.html>



Amy Ambrose, Associate Director in UC Berkeley
David Blinder, Associate Vice Chancellor in UC Berkeley
Naoki Murata,
Seishi Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office

The 3rd Meeting for University Administration Officers in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco Office held the 3rd Meeting for University Administration Officers in the U.S, on September 9th.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network between administrative officers from Japanese universities, which are based around the San Francisco Bay area. The participants were from Kagoshima University, Kyushu University, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo University of Science, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) and JSPS San Francisco office.

The Participants briefly introduced themselves and their activities around the Bay Area. Participants exchanged opinions eagerly about the difference of work between Japan and the United States and how the administrators were sent overseas by their universities and also discussed the mission of their work in each overseas office.

We felt that it was meaningful to boost exchange between people from different universities and research institutions. The 4th meeting will be held in February 2010 at JSPS San Francisco office.



The 13th Gathering of Japanese Fellows

February 26th

JSPS San Francisco Office will hold the 13th Gathering of JSPS Fellows on February 26th. The purpose of this gathering is to provide Japanese researchers in the U.S. with a good opportunity to share useful information, promote the exchange of research, not only in common research fields but in different research fields, and support network-building among these researchers. We have had 12 gatherings in the past, and this time, we will hold the next gathering in Berkeley, CA. We are looking forward to a lot of researchers' participation.

JSPS San Francisco Office

2001 Addison street suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704

THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

JSPS San Francisco Office Welcomes a New Member

JSPS San Francisco Office welcomes new Deputy Director, Toshiko Hasegawa



New Deputy Director for the San Francisco office is Toshiko Hasegawa who arrived from Japan at the end of June. As Deputy Director, Ms. Hasegawa manages and organizes the affairs of our office, delegating jobs to the Program Coordinator and Liaison Officer and overseeing the proper use of our budget.

She worked for the University of Tokyo prior to working for JSPS. Working her way up through some different positions, her last workplace was the General Affairs department of the Graduate School of Engineering and Graduate School of Information Science and Technology. She was in charge of the faculty meetings and publicity.

Ms. Hasegawa has visited New York as a tourist before, but this is her first time to live and work in America. She hopes that she can help promote research and educational exchanges between Japanese universities and American universities. Her major concerns at present are driving and learning English. She didn't drive often in Japan, but in California she has to drive every day to commute. She hopes that she will be able to drive to San Francisco International Airport from Berkeley by using the freeway in the near future. And also she hopes to learn English well over two year period that she will be living in San Francisco. Through learning and using English, she hopes to learn American culture and make many acquaintances.

JSPS San Francisco Office Wishes a Heartfelt Farewell to two Members

JSPS San Francisco Office bids farewell to Deputy Director in Tokyo University of Science San Francisco Office, Katsunori Tsunoda



Katsunori Tsunoda spent much of his time establishing international collaboration in education and research between Tokyo University of Science (TUS) and academic institutions that include three University of California campuses (UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara) and Ohio State University.

He has also provided risk management and overseas study management for TUS students who were participating in one-year-study programs at University of California campuses as well as for TUS students who have been sent to UC Davis or Portland State University under the summer short-term English study program.

Moreover, he took charge of efforts to actively develop international education and research collaboration programs with major research-oriented universities in North America through communication and data collection within North America.

He has dealt with each of his duties earnestly and successfully accomplished his tasks.

JSPS San Francisco Office bids farewell to our Advisor, Fukuei Saito



The one year appointment seemed as long as eternity when he came to California one year ago. However, one year seems too short to learn enough about the U.S. at present. He had three titles on his business card, minister's secretariat of MEXT, visiting scholar of UCOP, and adviser of JSPS, which gave him precious opportunities not only in California but also all over the U.S.

He was assigned as the 9th MEXT fellow for the exchange program between MEXT and UCOP, which was initiated by the president of UC and the Administrative Vice Minister of MEXT 10 years ago. Taking this opportunity, in addition to observing the administration of UC, he studied the capital investment mechanism of this excellent public research university.

The network of JSPS gave him the personal connection with many people who are doing their best in the U.S. To encounter different systems and various ideas provided him the opportunity to acquire a new point of view which will be crucial in his new assignment at MEXT.



<http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/junba/>

JUNBA 2010

JUNBA will hold the annual event “**JUNBA 2010**”

The details are as follows;

JUNBA SUMMIT (Invitation Only)

-The Next Step for Internationalization of Universities-

Date: Monday, January 11th, 2010

Venue: San Francisco Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010

Organized by: Japanese University Network in the Bay Area; JUNBA

Co-Organized by: Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

JETRO San Francisco

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Supported by: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

SUMMIT (Invitation Only, Language: Japanese)

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-9:35 Opening Remarks

9:35-9:45 Greeting

9:45-10:05 Keynote Speech

10:05-11:35 The Next Step for Internationalization of Universities

11:35-13:00 Break

13:00-14:30 Strategy on International Activities by Japanese Universities

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 Question and Answers, Conclusion

17:30-19:00 US-Japan Academic Networking Reception

JUNBA SYMPOSIUM & TECHNOLOGY FAIR (Open to Public)

—Innovative Medicine and Technology—

Date: Tuesday, January 12th, 2010

Time: 9:00-12:00 **JUNBA SYMPOSIUM**

13:00-18:00 **JUNBA TECHNOLOGY FAIR**

19:00-21:00 Networking Reception

JUNBA SYMPOSIUM (Open to public, Language: English)

Theme: Innovative Medicine and Technology

JUNBA TECHNOLOGY FAIR (Open to Public, Language: English, Exhibition and Oral Presentation)

Theme: Innovative Medicine and Technology

Sessions: Medical Devices

Infectious Disease Technology (Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment)

Regenerative Medicine

<http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/junba/>



Yokohama National University

World's Leading Port-City Universities Meet in Yokohama

Yokohama National University (YNU) hosted the fourth international seminar of Port-City University League, or PUL, on May 21 and 22, 2009, with the main theme of "Port as a Gateway to the Multi-Cultural and Multi-Civilizations." A total of ten of the world's leading universities from nine nations took part in this year's meeting.

PUL was launched in 2006 based on a proposal from YNU with the aim of building wide and deep relationships among prominent universities of the world's port-city areas. As an academic alliance, PUL's seminars focus on such fields as port-city histories, cultures, societies, laws and education as well as oceanography and maritime engineering.

Current PUL members are University of Southampton, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, University of Lisbon, University of São Paulo, Pukyong National University, British Columbia University, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Istanbul Technical University and University of Alexandria. From Japan, Yokohama City University and YNU are the members.

PUL's seminar is held once a year. The next meeting will be held in the summer of 2010 in Vancouver, Canada, hosted by British Columbia University.



PUL General Meeting in Yokohama



PUL's excursion trip in Yokohama

JSPS San Francisco Office Always Welcomes Your News

We are looking forward to hearing your news regarding international related events and so on.

If you have any news about your institution or your research, please feel free to ask us about including it in this newsletter.

This news letter will be distributed to international sections in Japanese universities and subscribers in Bay Area.

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

Check out our website !
www.jpsusa-sf.org

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Dr. Ryoko Ishioka

2002: MS(Physics) Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
 2002-2005: JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists,
 2005: Ph.D.(Physics) Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University,
 2005-2009: JSPS Research Fellow at Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

Dr. Ishioka came to the U.S. in May 2005 as a JSPS Research Fellow at Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, after receiving her Ph.D. in physics at Kyoto University.

She has been working on observational astronomy in the area of transient objects with accretion disks. Accretion disks are formed by diffuse material in orbital motion around central bodies, such as young stars, white dwarfs, neutron stars, black holes, active galactic nuclei, and so on. Gravitational energy of Infall matter is converted into thermal energy, which is an important mechanism of energy release and powers many activities in the universe. Her current research interests are the structure of accretion disks around compact objects, the cause of the variability of compact binary systems with accretion disks, and their evolution.

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

There are some reasons why I happen to be in the U.S. The first reason is because of Subaru Telescope, the biggest optical telescope of Japan. Subaru Telescope is located in Hawaii and my supervisor used to do research there. A large telescope like Subaru provides efficient resources to conduct my research.

Then, the most important reason why I am here is for my spouse, who is also an engineer at the observatory here. We support each other.

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

My first impression of working in the U.S. is the difference in the regular working hours compared to those in Japan, as many Japanese researchers would notice after coming to the U.S. Most researchers, including students and post doctors in the U.S. usually work in the office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and seldom work on weekends. They work hard during the office hour and enjoy their own life after 5 p.m. People in the U.S. consider that private life is as important as their work. The way of spending time for work and personal life is well balanced. In contrast, when I was working in Japan, many students and post doctors work overtime regularly and even on weekends.

A big difference I have noticed in addition to the working hours is job specialization. At the department I belonged to in Japan, researchers do many things, some of which are done by technicians, engineers, or machinists in the U.S.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

There are many large telescopes here in Hawaii. I have many merits from being close to the observatories. I can get a lot of information about telescopes and their instruments from people working for observatories, and I can use niche time of telescopes rather flexibly.

I also feel more comfortable raising my child and being an Astronomer doing research in the U.S. rather than in Japan.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

My dream is to continue my research and find a fact that no one has ever known. I especially hope to tell children how science is interesting.

Doing my own research out of my country is a good opportunity not only to get scientific merits and experiences but also to widen one's view by knowing different cultures and renewing recognition of Japanese culture. Having various points of view will be beneficial to one's research too.

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Dr. Yo Fukushima

1998: BS (Geophysics): Tohoku University

2000: MS (Geophysics): Tohoku University

2000-2002: Analyst, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

2005: DS (Volcanology): Universite Blaise Pascal (France)

2006- : Assistant Professor, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University

2008- : JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad, Department of Geophysics, Stanford University

Dr. Fukushima conducts research on solid-earth geophysics. During his master's course, he worked on seismic wave scattering in the Earth's crust. After completion, he went to Vienna, Austria, to work as an analyst for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which is one of the United Nations organizations. He then moved to France where he completed a Ph.D. research on modeling magma movements associated with volcanic eruptions.

His recent studies focus on measuring and interpreting ground deformation data caused by earthquakes, tectonic motions, and volcanic processes. He applies a technique called Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) on radar images acquired by Earth observation satellites flying several hundred kilometers above the ground. InSAR is a powerful tool; it can map cm-level ground movements over a wide area in images. As a member of the Department of Geophysics at Stanford University, Dr. Fukushima makes efforts to exploit more the potential of InSAR to achieve higher measurement precision of mm-level, as well as to sophisticate the methods of modeling the tectonic processes occurring underground.

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

I chose the world's best environment to conduct my research, and that envi-

ronment happened to be in the United States. Prof. Howard Zebker belongs to both the Departments of Geophysics and Electrical Engineering, and is competent in both the technical aspects of radar interferometry and its application to geophysical problems. Prof. Paul Segall, on the other hand, is a world-leading specialist in the studies of crustal deformation and fault mechanics. I benefit from being members of the two groups led by these professors.

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

On the level of students' research, I do not see any significant difference. The institute I belong to in Japan has more project-oriented research that involve a number of researchers (hence more meetings etc.), but this difference is probably just due to the difference in the missions of the organizations.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

Geophysics is a global discipline; international connections greatly enrich our research lives. There are researchers who graduated from Stanford that are now spread out all over the world. I have occasions to meet or get in touch with these researchers as well as with

other researchers visiting the campus. I feel I am developing good world-wide connections that would greatly facilitate my future research.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

I get excited when I have new findings. As a researcher, I wish to be able to have this joy throughout my career, which is not easy in the current stream of industrialized science. As an educator I want to share the joy of studying Earth science with students. Knowing about the Earth surely enriches our lives, and is also becoming increasingly important to tackle on difficult environmental problems.

Studying abroad surely provides an opportunity to widen one's view and to develop one's competency. It also contributes to augment future career options. In these contexts, I would in general recommend studying abroad. It should not be considered, however, that studying abroad is a must; I know many great researchers who have never studied abroad. What is most important is to believe in one's own decision and try the best.