



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science San Francisco Office

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

EVENTS OF WINTER 2010

Issue March 2010



JUNBA 2010 was held on January 11 and 12

On January 11 and 12, Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) convened its fourth annual event, titled "JUNBA 2010" in the vicinity of San Francisco. The JSPS San Francisco Office serves as JUNBA's secretariat.

Volume XVII

Inside this issue:

Events of Winter 2010	1-4
JSPS Advisor Column	5
Visit to the university in the bay area	7
Bay Area & Japan Related News	8

JUNBA SUMMIT



The first day's summit, held under the theme "The Next Step for Internationalization of Universities," was kicked off with greetings from Yasumasa Nagamine, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, and Motoyuki Ono, President of JSPS. Then, presentations were delivered by representatives of JUNBA-member institutions and other leading Japanese universities, followed by discussions. Views were exchanged regarding the internationalization initiatives being taken by Japanese universities in the U.S. and their efforts to foster internationally adept students.

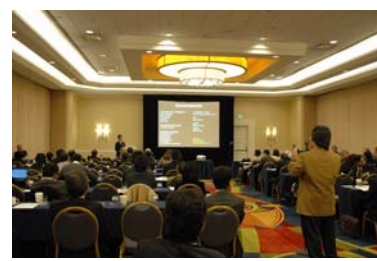


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EVENTS OF WINTER 2010

JUNBA SYMPOSIUM

The second day featured two events on the theme “Innovative Medicine and Technology”: a technology fair which was preceded in the morning by a symposium, in which presentations were given by researchers from the U.S. and Japanese universities and corporations. Five speakers including Yoshihiro Kawaoka, Professor of The University of Tokyo delivered a keynote speech on the latest medical technologies being advanced in their respective countries.



JUNBA TECHNOLOGY FAIR

The technology fair contained three sessions on “Medical Devices”, “Infectious Disease Technology (Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment)” and “Regenerative Medicine”. Each held in a separate location, these sessions featured presentations by the U.S. and Japanese researchers on some 30 leading-edge technologies, accompanied by exhibitions in which samples and posters were used to elaborate the subject technologies. With an eye for promoting future international university-industry collaboration, the participating organizations actively disseminated information—sharing literature with each other and passing it out to the visitors.



Greatly exceeding expectations, the event succeeded in attracting 250 visitors by the time the curtain closed on it. Building upon this milestone, JUNBA is expected to contribute greatly to the internationalization of university-industry collaboration along with technological advancement in the U.S. and Japan.

For more details on JUNBA 2010, please visit JUNBA’s website at : <http://www.junba.org/>.

JSPS held the 13th Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows in Berkeley.



On February 26th, JSPS San Francisco Office held its 13th “Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows” in Berkeley, California. These meetings are meant to promote cross disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers working in the U.S. 22 researchers participated in this year’s third gathering, some of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists.

The gathering started with a speech from Seishi Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office. Then JSPS staffs from headquarters gave an explanation about JSPS projects of fostering young researchers. Time was also set aside for the participants to introduce themselves briefly and describe their research work. In a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere, they engaged each other in free conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the U.S.

Questionnaire results from them showed there was a good reputation, saying that this Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows was really helpful for building a wide network among researchers. It also showed that many of the participants were interested in the information about recruitment from the research institutions. One of their concerns is that they need a longer term for fellowships to establish research achievements. Their opinions are really helpful to improve JSPS fellowships. JSPS San Francisco Office will continue to provide such an opportunity for network building events among young Japanese researchers.



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 the 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@jspsusa-sf.org

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

EVENTS OF WINTER 2010

Lecture at Center for Studies in Higher Education, University of California, Berkeley : Government, Universities and Higher Education Reform in Japan: How does the relationship work?

University of California, Berkeley held a lecture titled 'Government, Universities and Higher Education Reform in Japan: How does the relationship work?' The lecturer was Dr. Shinichi Yamamoto, Professor and Director of Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University.

Japan has experienced a big reform of higher education. In order to understand the reform of higher education, it is important to make clear the relationship between government, universities and the environmental changes surrounding them. Dr. Yamamoto analyzed the reasons and realities of higher education reform in Japan using the new relationship of the two sectors; universities and government that may be useful to international audiences of the workshop. He also showed proposals for the future of higher education in Japan.

The lecture attracted a large audience, including scholars and students from Japan. The lecture was a great success with a heated question and answer session.

Dr. Yamamoto visited JSPS San Francisco Office after his lecture. He was kind enough to give us additional explanations on his lecture.

It was a good opportunity to deepen the understanding about how the Japanese higher education system has developed and to think about how we can tackle the issues we share.



Dr. Shinichi Yamamoto,
Professor and Director of
Research Institute for Higher
Education, Hiroshima University

JSPS San Francisco Office welcomed visits from Japanese Universities

JSPS San Francisco Office welcomed visits from Japanese Universities in order to share useful information. One of the topics we talked about was the internationalization of Japanese universities. Some universities have a plan to set a foreign base in the U.S. However, it is difficult to carry out that plan. This is because they don't have enough of a budget and human resources. Seishi Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office, explains our projects to develop the internationalization of Japanese universities, such as JUNBA (Japanese Universities Network in the Bay Area) and workshops between JSPS and University of California. It is also a good opportunity for us to let many people know about JSPS projects. It is hoped that JSPS San Francisco Office plays an important role for Japanese Universities.



Staffs, Nagoya University



Dr. Egawa, Managing Director of
The University of Tokyo



Dr. Isogai, President of Nara Institute of Science and Technology

What is Furlough?



What is “Furlough”?

Have you ever heard of the word “Furlough”? It is a word which we often hear in the State of California recently, though I think it is an unfamiliar word in Japan. Furlough is explained as the following: temporary leave of absence from employment, duty in the armed services, and or from a prison term. It may be voluntary or involuntary (From Wikipedia). That is, furlough is a system where the worker is made to take unpaid vacation from the employer compulsorily. Furlough is different from the paid holiday system in that workers are not paid during their vacation, and their salary decreases substantially. Furlough is the one measure used as a strategy of labor cost reduction by an employer.

Shunichi Taniai
 Visiting Scholar, University of California
 Office of the President
 (Adviser, JSPS San Francisco Office)

Furlough becomes effective in University of California

University of California (UC) held the regular Regents Meeting in July 2009, and decided to implement furlough for one year from September 1, 2009, for all faculty and staff of UC. Concretely, all faculty and staff were obligated to acquire at least 11 vacation days, utmost 26 days in one year. As a result, every faculty and staff of UC gets a salary decrease from 4 to 10%. The UC president and executive staff decided additional salary cuts of 5% for one year from July 1, 2009 besides this furlough, so they suffered salary decreases of 9% to 10% in total.



Students protesting against UC tuition hike, at Berkeley campus ①
 (2009.11.20)

As a background to the furlough, there is a severe monetary problem which California State is struggling with. California State suffered from annual revenue shortage of eight billion dollars in the 2009 - 2010 fiscal years, and as a result, the subsidy for UC from the State was cut by as much as 800 million dollars. One of the expenditure reduction plans that UC chose to resolve the fund shortage was furlough. UC can save labor costs of 184 million dollars by the one year furlough of all faculty and staff of UC. By the way, UC also decided students’ fee increase by 30%, on average bringing UC about an extra 500 million dollars every year. However, the fee increase has developed into an intense demonstration activity where students who oppose the fee increase cause the occupation of buildings on Berkeley campus.

Furlough is bad?

Other public organizations in California State implement furlough too. For example, the California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) came to close their offices more frequently than before. Therefore, huge crowds rush to DMV during their limited business hours. I had to get up so early, and wait in a long line to make an appointment for the driving test.



Students protesting against UC tuition hike, at Berkeley campus ②
 (2009.11.20)

Thus, furloughs of public organizations bring people some inconvenience in life. Moreover, furlough is a really severe matter for workers, because it directly decreases their salary. However, I also feel there are some advantages to furlough. Workers are able to take a day off in a dignified manner because of furlough. Workers don't have to hesitate to take a day off. And furlough is much better for workers than getting laid off.

In University of California Office of the President (UCOP), where I work, every staff is taking a day off as a furlough day without saying anything. There are two kinds of furlough. In the first type of furlough, the administrative office of the university assigns the specific day as a furlough day, and closes the entire office. All staff must take a vacation on that day. For instance, the common furlough days are assigned at the end of the year, so that staff take longer Christmas vacations than those of an ordinary year. In the second type of furlough, each staff assigns the furlough day to an arbitrary day by another. Perhaps, each staff might have additionally acquired the vacation on family's anniversary etc. Thus, each staff is roughly acquiring one or two furlough days every month, and I haven't especially heard any rumblings of discontent from the staff.



University of California Office of the President (UCOP) in Oakland

Furlough is possible in Japan?

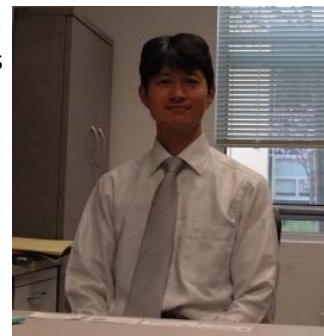


U.C. Berkeley

Similar to California, there is salary reductions of civil servants in Japan, including the staff of national universities. This merely reduces salary, and the civil servant himself doesn't have any advantages from the salary reduction. I think that we should seriously discuss furlough in Japan, though it goes without saying that I hope we don't need to implement furlough in Japan. Most workers in Japan tend not to take a vacation willingly, even if enough paid holiday remains. If there is an uneasy atmosphere that prevents workers from taking vacation, furlough might be a good solution which improves the work-life balance. Moreover, citizens are likely to be patient even if the public offices are frequently closed, because citizens will be satisfied with salary reductions of civil servants.

JSPS staff visited San Francisco State University

JSPS staff visited San Francisco State University (SFSU). SFSU is part of the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system and 5th largest in the system. SFSU was established for liberal arts education. It had started as a teachers college. SFSU is also famous for its film school and design school. In FY 2008, SFSU has 2,205 foreign students from 92 countries. 280 students from Japan study here. This is the largest number in the 23-campus CSU system. Getting foreign students to attend their school is one of the main tasks for Japanese universities. JSPS staff had a chance to learn about the SFSU strategy for foreign students.



Koichiro Aoshima,
Coordinator, International
Student Services & Outreach

They met Koichiro Aoshima, who is a Coordinator in charge of International Student Services & Outreach. He originally came from Japan to study at SFSU. He has worked in this field since he started attending SFSU. He was so kind as to accept their proposal to have an interview about his task.

One of his main tasks is recruiting foreign students. For example, he joins foreign student fairs held in Japan. Recently, foreign students in SFSU are increasing from China, India and Vietnam while those from Japan and Taiwan are decreasing. He also visits Community colleges (two-year Colleges) for recruiting students who think of studying in higher education. It is common in the U.S. that Community college students transfer to a four-year college.



He analyzes that there are two assets to accepting foreign students. One is that foreign students bring stimulations to other resident students. The other is that tuition fees from foreign students contributes to the budget of SFSU.

SFSU also encourages students to study abroad and focuses promoting it. For example, informational meetings are held four time a week. Now SFSU students are studying in many countries like the U.K., France, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, and Japan. These students could contribute to the globalization of SFSU.

It is characteristic that the administration has large discretion in carrying out strategy. For example, some agreements concerning foreign students were concluded by his initiative, which is usually carried out by faculties in Japan. It is also characteristic that Personnel recruitment is done separately by each section. There is no system of transferring to other sections. They gain their career in the same position and they get a promotion if there is an empty post.

It was a good opportunity for JSPS staff to deepen their understanding of how U.S. university administrations work. Also there is a lot of useful information Japanese universities can learn to improve its own administration.



BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

Director of JSPS San Francisco Office gives lectures to graduate students from Japanese universities



Seishi Takeda giving a lecture to the graduate students from Kyushu University.

JSPS San Francisco Office welcomed graduate students from Kyushu University and The University of Tokyo. The students also visited research institutions and IT enterprises around Silicon Valley such as Stanford University and Google headquarters. Many young researchers are attracted to the leading edge researches in Silicon Valley.

Kyushu University acquired a scientific grant of Global COE. The main purpose of this grant is to develop education and research interactions between Kyushu University and overseas research bases. Students enrolled in the Doctoral program in Chemistry were sent from Kyushu University through this grant. In order to achieve the purpose of this grant, it is important to foster young researchers who will sustain science and technology in the future. The students came to Silicon Valley this time to attend the English training program.

The University of Tokyo also acquired a scientific grant. Its purpose is to foster researchers specializing in information technology (IT) so that they can contribute to the IT industry. They visited Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley and Google headquarters. They engaged in heated discussions with the researchers and engineers at these institutions to further stimulate their ideas and motivations.

Seishi Takeda, Director of JSPS San Francisco Office, welcomed the students to JSPS San Francisco Office. He explained the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. Then, speaking from his own experiences as a visiting scholar at Stanford University, he lectured on what researchers should keep in mind when they engage in research abroad. The students listened to his lecture eagerly.



Seishi Takeda giving a lecture to the graduate students from The University of Tokyo.

It is hoped that young scientists like them will lead the technology development in the future. JSPS San Francisco Office will keep backing them up to achieve their goals.

For further information about the scientific grants above, please see the following web pages;

- Kyushu University Global COE Program: Science for Future Molecular Systems
<http://www.chem.kyushu-u.ac.jp/gcoe/index.php>
- The University of Tokyo : IST Hands-on Program
http://www.i.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ist_hands-on/Director



Graduate students from The University of Tokyo



Graduate students from Kyushu University



Kyushu University held G-YREP (Global Young Researcher's English Program)



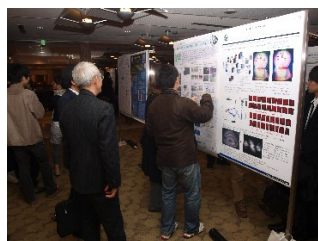
Google headquarter

Kyushu University held G-YREP (Global Young Researcher's English Program) for three weeks January and February of 2010. This program is planned for young researchers to train in English proficiency in collaboration with G-COE. Studies in American Language (SAL), belonging to San Jose State University, helped them by offering spaces for classes. 17 doctoral course students, working in G-COE, participated in this program.

This program consists of 3 features. The first feature is that SAL offers English classes, in which they can acquire presentation and discussion skills necessary to attend international academic meetings. The second feature is that residences in San Jose host them. They get to experience a different culture through life with foreign people and cultivate international sense. And the third feature is that they visit educational institutions such as Stanford University, University of California Berkeley, San Jose State University and IT enterprises, such as Google headquarters and IBM research institution. At IBM research institution, they made presentations related to their own research, having heated discussions with IBM researchers. G-YREP was successfully completed and we hope that all the experiences they have got will surely bear fruit in the near future.



4th Tokyo University of Science International Collaboration Workshop - TUS-ICW



Tokyo University of Science (TUS) held the 4th International Collaboration Workshop for 3 days from December 8 2009 in Tokyo. The main topic of this workshop was "Nano, Nano-bio Materials and Biological Science and Technology".

26 invited speakers from overseas and 7 TUS faculties gave lectures about their field of studies, which were followed by active discussions involving the audience. In addition, there was also a poster session on the second day, and several more faculties and representatives from various research laboratories had opportunities to present their research activities during this workshop. After the workshop, a coordinator meeting with all coordinators from the University of California took place in order to discuss the contents of academic cooperation.

The aim of this workshop is to promote a joint educational program with our collaboration universities, and to develop mutual understandings by focusing on our unique educational systems. During the 3 days, over 400 faculties and students participated in the workshop. TUS will keep making effort to provide international human resources with science and technology education background to the society.

This workshop was supported by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, as one of the globalization promotion schemes of the universities in Japan.

