



# Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

## San Francisco Office

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### JSPS San Francisco Office introduces Deputy Director Kazusa Toda!

Kazusa Toda has been with the JSPS San Francisco Office for one year now. As she starts into her second (and last) year here with us, we'd like to introduce her to you fellow readers, and explain a bit about her history, how she has adjusted to living in America, and what she plans on accomplishing in the remainder of her time here.

As Deputy Director, Ms. Toda manages and organizes the affairs in our office, delegating many jobs to the program coordinators and liaison officer, and overseeing the proper use of our budget. She worked for MEXT for 4 years prior to JSPS. She learned about JSPS while working in the Research Promotion Bureau, managing the Subdivision on Science (part of the Council for Science and Technology). She had the opportunity to work with Dr. Masatoshi Koshiha, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physics. Dr. Koshiha established a non-profit with his prize money, Heisei Kiso Kagaku Zaidan. Ms. Toda was inspired and impressed with Dr. Koshiha's devotion to promote interest and education, especially in young people, of the wonders of basic science. Ms. Toda now thinks of what she can do for the people as a government official.

Her time here in the San Francisco area has been filled with eclectic tastes, many new friends and acquaintances, and unforgettable experiences involving culture and travel. She realized there are many differences, not only between Japan and the U.S., but also between the U.S. she imagined and the U.S. she lives in now. Cheers to cultural differences! And cheers to Kazusa!



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### SYMPOSIUM "Nanoscience and Quantum Physics"

### SUPPORT

University of California at Berkeley and Tokyo Institute of Technology Interdepartmental



The JSPS San Francisco Office supported interdepartmental symposium, co-organized by UCB and TIT, was held as a component of the Institute's project "Nanometer-Scale Quantum Physics" implemented under Japan's 21st Century COE Program.

Opened by our Office Director Dr. Seishi Takeda, and the 21st Century COE Program, the symposium followed through with eight sessions over two days. Both day's sessions were well-attended by doctoral students and postdoc researchers whose numbers always exceeded 40 and sometimes approached 70.

Thursday, January 5th-  
Friday, January 6th (2006)

Given the quantity of participants and their discussions, the symposium was carried out quite successfully. Besides offering a venue for reporting the fruits of Japanese research in the nanoscience field, the symposium was also very meaningful in terms of the opportunity it gave Japanese and American researchers in this field to form networks and step up collaboration among themselves.



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# Events of 2005

## JOINT COLLOQUIUM

Friday, Sept. 23rd—  
Saturday, Sept. 24th



*Participants gather for a photo adjacent to the entrance of the Asian Centre, UBC.*

## “Experiences With and Within:

### Christians in Japan from the 16th Century to the Present Day”

With speakers from Japan, the US, Canada, and Portugal, the first JSPS SF Office-University of British Columbia joint colloquium was a great success. Along with the superb cooperation and support of the Asian Studies Department Staff, at last the vision of the Head of the department, Prof. Peter Nosco, came to life in a wonderful two day event. The long and arduous planning that started more than a year ago gave way to this symposium with a theme that spanned more than 500 years of Christians in Japan. With an interdisciplinary approach, this two day event brought together prestigious researchers from various fields, thus giving a grand opportunity to gather on a parallel topic, engage in “out of the ordinary” conversations, and discuss events from various viewpoints and approaches. In conjunction to the interdisciplinary approach, the papers that were presented addressed not only the experiences from Christians in Japan, but also the perspective of Japanese Christians in Japan, thus providing a unique dual perspective. The papers were delivered in an almost seamless effort.

As one might anticipate, for the first event on an international platform, the JSPS SF Office was more than delighted with the overall outcome of its first joint colloquium in Canada. Having had the pleasure to work with Prof. Nosco and his staff, to honor UBC Professor Emeritus John Howes and recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun as the keynote speaker, and to have the opportunity to make a lasting relationship with UBC — all at once—this event has, without a doubt, raised the caliber of future events. *You can find more information at [www.jspsusa-sf.org/news04.html](http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/news04.html).*

## RECEPTIONS



Friday, July 29th

*Research participants gathered at Hotel Shattuck Plaza, just next door to our San Francisco Office, in Berkeley, CA.*

## Gatherings for Japanese fellows held in Berkeley and in Boston!

In the fiscal year of 2005, the San Francisco Office held two receptions for Japanese fellows who had been conducting research at universities and research institutions in the US. Our Office had the first kind of these receptions in July, 2004, in Berkeley, for the purpose of supporting network-building among the Japanese researchers in the US under JSPS fellowships. With the great success of this first reception, we had a second reception in Los Angeles in March, 2005. This fiscal year, our Office gathered twenty researchers to Berkeley in July and twenty-eight researchers to Boston in December.

Each meeting proved to provide good opportunities for the participants to share useful information, and promoted the exchange among the researchers in not just common research fields, but in different research fields as well.

We hope to have similar receptions in alternate cities in the future, and look forward to a lot of researchers' participations.

*Again, another warm reception gathering of Japanese fellows, this time at the Holiday Inn Boston-Brookline, MA .*

Thursday, December 8th



## “Soft Power” anyone?

Joseph Nye coined the phrase “soft power” in 1990 to describe the ability of nations to obtain desirable outcomes in international relations by relying on their cultural and ideological appeal abroad rather than their “hard power,” i.e. military and economic might. Soft power operates through attraction and seduction rather than coercion or economic incentive. *-Prof. Stalker, UT Austin*

### “Interrogating Japan’s Soft Power”

A joint conference was held with University of Texas, Austin’s Center for East Asian Studies this past February. The topic involved both historical and contemporary issues of Japan’s “soft power”. The speakers featured in this one day event were as follows: Susan Napier (UT, Austin), Christine Guth (Stanford University), Shoji Yamada (International Research Center for Japanese Studies), William LaFleur (University of Pennsylvania), William Tsutsui (University of Kansas), Takayuki Tatsumi (Keio University), Anne Allison (Duke University), and Koichi Iwabuchi (Waseda University), with opening remarks from JSPS San Francisco Office Director Dr. Seishi Takeda and UT Austin’s Center for East Asian Studies Professor Nancy Stalker.

This event was an interdisciplinary approach to discussing how culture, values, and institutions have been influenced by “soft power.” The first part of the day focused on aspects stemming from the past, followed by contemporary elements found today. From anime to the American butchering of the word “Zen”, the conference spread into dialogue defining soft power, and it’s globalization and regionalism effects. We felt many promising relationships were formed and the joint-conference fruitful in its efforts. *You can find more information at [www.jspsusa-sf.org/event01.html](http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/event01.html).*

## JOINT COLLOQUIUM

Saturday, February 25, 2006



*UT Austin Tower*



*Conference Day, Gebauer Building  
Dean’s Conference Room, UT, Austin.*

## Upcoming Events of 2006

### SAKURA MATSURI

*Cherry Blossom Festival*

**April 15th-16th & April 22nd-23rd**

San Francisco’s Japantown is preparing to celebrate the 2006 39th Annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. This year is special because Japantown will also be celebrating its 100th Year in San Francisco! The festival will exhibit a parade on the 23rd, fan fair, foods, pageants, tea ceremonies, and booths galore –JSPS SF will be there, too!

*Post Street, Japantown, San Francisco; booths located in Radisson Miyako Hotel, Imperial Ballroom B*

### APRU/AEARU Research Symposium

Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim  
*Global Watch and Environmental Impact*

**April 21st & 22nd**

This is APRU/AEARU’s 2nd Research Symposium. The main purposes are to promote joint research, to broaden academic cooperation among members of these organizations, and to contribute to the disaster calculation and prevention around the Pacific Rim through discussions toward building the global watching system and decreasing environmental impact. Hosted by UC Berkeley and Osaka University, JSPS is supporting this event. This year being the 100th Anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, many conferences will mark the occasion.

*The Westin St. Francis, Union Square, San Francisco*



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

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

#### Upcoming Fellowship Deadlines

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

**April 6th, 2006 & July 7th, 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!

# The Office Staff Switch

JSPS San Francisco Office wishes a heartfelt farewell to our Program Coordinators and Advisor.

## **Junji Hando, as Program Coordinator,**

spent much of these last couple months arranging meetings for delegates from MEXT, JSPS HQ, and



Japanese Universities, on top of his rigorous accounting responsibilities. He hoped to improve his English enough to work in an international section in his University when he returns—and this we believe he has immensely. On a personal level, Junji hoped to become a good driver while living here in the U.S.—and again, if he can drive here, he can drive anywhere! Life in the Bay Area presented him with new favorites: Vietnamese and Thai foods, California rolls, espresso, the Smashing Pumpkins, moose, Clint Eastwood and Woody Allen, and much more. With his experiences traveling, living abroad, speaking English everyday, and in the mean time fine-tuning his administration skills, Junji Hando is ready for the next step as Program Coordinator for the International Exchange Affairs at the National University of Electro-Communications—Good Luck!

## **Yoko Tsubaki, as Program Coordinator,**

has kept busy promoting JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs, especially the Short-term program for North



American and European researchers. In addition, she was the primary coordinator of our joint event with the University of Texas, Austin. With such success from this year's projects, we feel confident in Yoko's next step in her career, returning to Tottori University to work within the International Affairs Division. She acquired the proper communication skills, especially business English, which will prove invaluable advantageous in her new job. Her time in the Bay Area met most of her expectations: friendly people helping each other out, and receiving much kindness herself. Her knowledge of California wines surpasses most now, too! At first finding it hard to ask people to repeat things, she is now fearless in questioning. And along that same line, she's now discovered her favorite phrase "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." We salute you Yoko!

## **Kengo Iwamoto, as Advisor,**

mentored and guided the coordinators, on



top of meeting with the University of California Office of the President on a daily basis. During his time here he was able to visit seven different campuses, gathering information for his report on the University of California's governance, administration, and academic units. Kengo was incredibly enthusiastic with his English learning, and found it most effective to talk with many English speakers everyday while taking private lessons. From here he will return to MEXT and has been promoted to Director of Monuments and Sites Division within the Cultural Properties Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs. Conscious of foreign interest in Japan, Kengo should thrive in his new position, especially with his effortless English speaking. We'll surely miss his positive attitude and energy. Bye Kengo!

This April, JSPS San Francisco Office will be welcoming three new Program Coordinators and one new Advisor.

## **Welcoming our new Liaison Officer, Caroline Chiba Bahr!!!**

As of this January, Ms. Caroline Bahr joined our Office as Liaison Officer. As a JET alumni (Iwate-ken 2002-2004), and product of bi-cultural upbringing, her natural and schooled Japanese language abilities are constantly being improved upon. Her ambition to speak and learn more compliment the native Japanese speakers of our Office as they try to learn English. Her responsibilities in assisting her officemates with living here in America are just as important as her many other administrative duties. As the link between the two cultures, she maintains balance and understanding from both perspectives. Fairly new to California herself, Caroline appreciates experiencing new things and is open to inviting the Japanese Office to do the same. We look forward to an exciting and productive future together!



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).

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Check out our website!

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

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