



JSPS San Francisco

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

EVENTS OF WINTER 2010



JUNBA 2011 was held on January 7th

On January 7th, Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) convened its fifth annual event, "JUNBA2011", in the vicinity of San Francisco. JSPS San Francisco serves as JUNBA's secretariat.

This year, approximately one hundred people participated in JUNBA 2011. With generous cooperation from the Schools of California State University (CSU) System, several distinguished panelists attended from CSU East Bay, San Jose State University and the CSU Chancellor's office. The participants from the Japanese side included representatives from 17 Japanese universities and several important guests including the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, the President of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and the representative from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT).

It was an honor to have the President of California State University, East Bay, Dr. Qayoumi, give an insightful speech with his perspective on how to nurture global adaptability of CSU students. This stimulating speech led to an exchange of opinions and gave rise to ongoing discussions on cross-cutting issues in education such as remote teaching and e-learning, triggering new ideas to strengthen the education system. We hope that this is just the beginning of a solid relationship between U.S. and Japanese universities.

We are currently hard at work producing a report on JUNBA 2011, and we expect it to be available early this year.

Date:

Friday, January 7, 2011

Venue:

San Francisco Airport Marriott
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010

Organized by:

JUNBA: Japanese University Network in the Bay Area

Co-Organized by:

Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
JETRO San Francisco

Supported by:

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology- Japan (MEXT)



Further information ↓

http://www.junba.org/junba2011_j.html

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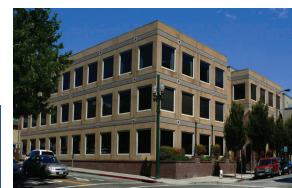
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EVENTS OF WINTER 2010

U.S.- JAPAN University Round Table Discussion -Nurturing Global Adaptability of University Students-

In the morning, a round table discussion was held under the theme “Nurturing Global Adaptability of University Students.” Beginning with opening remarks from Masato Matsuo, President of JUNBA, a keynote speech was presented by Mohammad H. Qayoumi, President of California State University, East Bay. Two presidents and six executives from other California State University Campuses, the Chancellor’s Office and School District Board also participated in this round table discussion along with some presidents and executives from twelve Japanese universities and observers from five other Japanese universities. JUNBA2011, which is the fifth symposium, facilitated discussions between Japanese and U.S. universities for the first time.



JUNBA 2011 Summit - Global Adaptability of Japanese Universities-

In the afternoon, the JUNBA 2011 Summit, titled “Global Adaptability of Japanese Universities,” was held. It was kicked off with greetings from Hiroshi Inomata, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, and Motoyuki Ono, President of JSPS. Shinjiro Komatsu, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, made a keynote speech.

At the beginning of the summit, Dr. Matsuo, President of JUNBA, reviewed the round table discussion from the morning, and then all participants surrounding the table, including representatives from twelve Japanese universities discussed and shared opinions and strategies on how to further global adaptability of Japanese universities.



JUNBA Homepage ↓

http://www.junba.org/index_j.html

<http://www.junba.org/index.html> (English)



EVENTS OF WINTER 2010


What is JUNBA?

JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area) comprises a network of Japanese universities with overseas offices in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The mission of JUNBA is to contribute to the betterment of education, research and business creation both in Japan and the U.S. through a support of internationalization activities, personnel training of Japanese universities and a stimulation of Industry-Academia-Government (IAG) Collaborations between Japan and the U.S.

JUNBA has held a summit each year for five years since 2007, where the universities of JUNBA members introduce their strategies for internationalization activities and collaboration among industry and universities. JUNBA also holds regular conferences where board members gather together to discuss various kinds of programs for cooperation among both Japanese and American universities.

Core Members

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- JSPS San Francisco Office
 - Tokyo University of Science San Francisco Office
 - Tokyo Institute of Technology Berkeley Office
 - Osaka University San Francisco Center
 - Fukuoka Institute of Technology California Office
 - Hosei University Research Institute, California
 - Obirin Gakuen Foundation of America
 - Tohoku University US Office
 - Yokohama City University California Office
 - Kyushu University California Office
 - Kagoshima University North American Center

The 16th Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows in the San Francisco

On February 25th, JSPS San Francisco held its 16th "Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows" in the JSPS San Francisco office.

These meetings are meant to promote cross-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers laboring in the U.S. While serving to deepen the friendly relationships amongst them, the meeting also provides the researchers with an opportunity to build working networks. Participating in this year's first gathering were about 13 researchers, many of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists.

The meeting started with greetings from San Francisco director Prof. Seishi Takeda. Time was set aside for the participants to introduce themselves and briefly describe their research work through PowerPoint presentations. Participants eagerly listened to each presenters' research work. Several interesting photos which some presenters showed caught everyone's attention. After their presentation, they engaged each other in free conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the U.S. in a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the U.S.

For JSPS San Francisco, these gatherings are a good opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of researcher's activities in the U.S. We will continue to play an important role in providing such opportunities for network building events among young Japanese researchers.



News From around the SF Office

2011 AIEA Annual Conference

On February 20th-24th, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) held the 2011 AIEA Annual Conference in downtown San Francisco. The Conference program provided participants with many workshops, presentations and other events regarding internationalization and international activities of higher education institutions. It also provided networking opportunities among participants.

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE BAY AREA

JSPS Advisor interviewed Dr. Mary E. McMAHON at UCEAP Universitywide Office

Are Japanese Universities attractive for UC to exchange students?

On February 23rd, Tsuyoshi Yamamoto, our Advisor visited UCEAP Universitywide Office in Santa Barbara to talk with Dr. Mary E. McMAHON about the University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP). Dr. McMAHON is Regional Director of UCEAP Universitywide Office and is in charge of Asia & Africa area programs.

What is UCEAP?

(UCEAP: <http://eap.ucop.edu/>)

In the State of California, there are three public higher educational systems: University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community College (CCC). The UC system has 10 campuses and focuses on academic research and instruction. UCEAP is a UC systemwide international exchange program which started in 1962. Serving all 10 campuses, UCEAP continues its support of the University of California's mission through academic instruction and exchange relationships around the world.

So far, nearly 80,000 UC students have participated in UCEAP and graduated into careers in private industry, public service, and academia. On the other hand, over 24,000 international students have completed non-degree study at UC campuses through UCEAP's reciprocal exchange agreements. Currently, over 250 program options are active in 35 countries as a whole.

Partners of UCEAP are top-ranked universities, institutes, and faculty around the world. Diverse and comprehensive programs of varied design, duration, and location are offered. This program helps each UC campus internationalize their instruction and research through reciprocal exchange of students and faculties.

UCEAP provides the opportunity for UC students to become international citizens and global thinkers. Through study abroad, they prepare for careers in this rapidly changing world and gain skills needed for success in the global marketplace.



With staff members of the UCEAP Office,
Center: Dr. Mary E. McMAHON
Second from the right: Tsuyoshi Yamamoto

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE BAY AREA

UCEAP and JAPAN

(http://eap.ucop.edu/our_programs/countries/japan/)

Every year, over 200 UC students are sent to Japan via UCEAP. 10 Japanese universities made reciprocal exchange agreements with UC in EAP (11 universities from next year). As for the number of programs, there are 7 program options.

“There is no single rule or benchmark when we choose a university with which we make a reciprocal exchange agreement”, Dr. McMAHON said. It means all 4-year Japanese universities have the opportunity to talk with UC about this program. But in her opinion, there are 3 main points which are important when UCEAP makes an exchange agreement with comparable Japanese universities.

First, the university which can receive as many UC students as possible will be welcome. From next year, Waseda University will be added to the EAP list. That is because Waseda is able to exchange a good number of students in both directions.

Secondly, whether the university has an international office and staff to support international students is very important. For example, Tsuru University seems to be pleasing to students at this point. In Tsuru, UC students can experience close human relationships with the teachers and community which they may not have in the urban central area. In other words, a traditional Japanese society can be experienced there.

Finally, the university which is able to teach courses in English is very attractive. Many UC students are not good enough in Japanese language. “In this point, a lot of Japanese universities are adding courses in English. But, those who have more offerings are attractive to our students. Also Osaka University and Tohoku University offer science and engineering opportunities in English. We really appreciate them”, Dr. McMAHON said.

According to Dr. McMAHON, Japan continues to be attractive and popular for UC students. She says that Japan’s current strengths lie in laboratory and research opportunities in science & technology and study in economics. And of course, Japanese language and culture are very attractive as well. In addition to these, programs in which students could learn Japanese medical science, nursing science, and basic science would be very valuable. If these programs are offered in English, they must be much more attractive for UC students.

UCEAP Study Centers Abroad

(<http://www.uctsc.org/index.html>) (<http://eap.ucop.edu/studycenter/staffprofiles/>)

UCEAP has several on-site Study Centers which support UCEAP students abroad. UC and host university faculties and staff serve as UC ambassadors worldwide. Study Center Directors, Liaison Officers, and staff work with host university officials, embassy or consulate personnel, and other service organizations to monitor local conditions and ensure UC students safety and security. As for Japan, the UC Tokyo Study Center (TSC) is located on the campus of the International Christian University. It is administered by one UC faculty member with the support of three local staff members.

(Continue to next page)

JSPS San Francisco 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 newsletter will be distributed to international sections in Japanese universities and subscribers in the Bay Area.

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE BAY AREA

Congratulations! 50th anniversary

Next year, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of UCEAP!

We would like to congratulate UCEAP on this accomplishment. And we hope that University California and Japanese universities will continue to build and sustain a productive relationship through this program.



MARY E. McMAHON
Regional Director, Asia & Africa
Education Abroad Program
Universitywide Office
University of California

THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

JSPS SF Wishes a Heartfelt Farewell to Program Coordinators

Yoshihiro Shiratori, Ai Furushima and Mayuko Nakai have fulfilled their 1 year training as Program Coordinators for JSPS San Francisco. Returning to Japan at the end of March, they immediately start working for the universities which they each belong to.

Here are some comments from our Program Coordinators about their stay in the U.S.



Q1. What did you accomplish during your time here in the U.S. and with JSPS San Francisco?

Shiratori: I could deepen my understanding of the California higher education system, and change my attitude towards my job by meeting many people who work in the Bay Area. That is the most exciting thing for me since coming here.

Furushima: I learned how to organize international symposiums as an administrative staff through JUNBA. And I could learn about education in the U.S. by visiting universities and talking with people who work there. These are valuable experiences for me.

Nakai: I could meet a lot of nice people here through conducting various JSPS SF activities, attending other events, and visiting universities and research institutions. With that, I gained a wider view of things.

Q2. What will you miss the most about America?

Shiratori: I will miss the good tasting coffee and Trader Joe's chocolate chip cookies. Also, I am so sorry that I couldn't see Hideki Matsui play at the Oakland coliseum.

Furushima: I will miss the wonderful view of San Francisco from Berkeley, the nice blue sky which makes me feel so refreshed, and the beautiful sunset behind the Golden Gate Bridge which gives me comfort and inspiration.

Nakai: I will miss the rich nature in the U.S. and the Bay Area's nice weather. In addition, I'll miss Casual Friday, in which we can work in the office wearing casual cloths on Friday.

At last, we want to thank everyone for supporting and working with us. (Shiratori, Furushima, Nakai)

This April, JSPS SF will be welcoming new Program Coordinators!

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@jspssusa-sf.org.

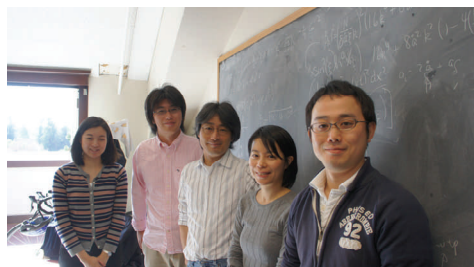
Check out our website!
www.jspssusa-sf.org

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE BAY AREA

Visit to Dr. Hitoshi Murayama at UC Berkeley

The staff of JSPS San Francisco visited and interviewed Dr. Hitoshi Murayama, Professor of Physics at the University of California, Berkeley in early March in order to understand his research activities as a professor at an American university. Through the interview, we realized many differences between Japanese and American universities exist with regards to university structure, situation of graduate students, and frequent transfer of researchers and other things. For example, on hiring good researchers and faculty, not only private universities but also public universities in the U.S. try to attract them by offering a variety of benefits. And each academic department in U.S. universities have a Chairperson position, which Japanese universities don't have. The department Chairperson has responsibilities such as promoting faculty and creating positions based on the strategy of the department.

It was a precious opportunity for us to learn about and update our vision the current situation of American universities. We'd like to express our appreciation to Dr. Murayama for taking time out of his busy schedule for us and showing us many useful things.



Hitoshi Murayama, Ph.D (Center of the photo)

Director, Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (IPMU)
 Todai Institutes for Advanced Study (TODIAS), University of Tokyo,
 MacAdams Professor of Physics, University of California, Berkeley,
 Faculty Senior Staff, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



東京工業大学
 Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tokyo Tech team wins Track Award and Gold Medal at iGEM 2010 Jamboree

The Tokyo Tech team has for the first time in Japan won the track award, the Best Information Processing Project at the iGEM 2010 Jamboree. The iGEM 2010 Jamboree was held November 6–8 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, where 128 teams participated from all over the world.

The Tokyo Tech students also won the Gold Medal for the fourth year in a row, thereby equaling the world record for continuous winning of gold medals; Tokyo Tech was participating in iGEM for the fifth time.



Dr. Randy Rettberg, Director of iGEM, and Team Tokyo Tech

The International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM) is an annual synthetic biology competition for university students—mainly undergraduates. The competition is the biological engineering version of design competitions such as robotics competitions.

Prior to the completion, each university team was given a kit of biological parts called “Bio-Bricks”. The teams then worked for several months at their universities to design and build a biological system, and gathered in November to present their products at iGEM.

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

Synthetic Biology is an extension of genetic engineering, with the emphasis being to artificially combine many genes and build material producing systems for medical agents and biofuels. It is considered desirable to introduce different medium-sized networks into different types of cells and to build a collaborative system between these cells in order to establish division of work among them, rather than introducing a large number of genes into a single cell.

The main reasons for the award going to Tokyo Tech were because the team: (1) established a mathematical modeling of the system for work division/collaboration ; (2) built gene networks for communication among cells; and (3) produced materials such as pigments and fragrances.

TSUBAME2.0 : the world's highest level supercomputer



Green500 List Certificate

Tokyo Institute of Technology's Tsubame2.0 took 2nd in the November 2010 Green500 List on published on November 18th. With the goal of reducing carbon emission, the Green500 list ranks the top 500 supercomputers in the world by energy efficiency—Top 500 performance—per-watt. Four days earlier, Tsubame2.0 was placed 4th on the TOP500 List of the world's most powerful supercomputers.

Notably, Tsubame2.0 was also named as the Greenest Production Supercomputer in the World for achieving the greatest energy-efficiency among all supercomputers currently in operation. Tsubame 2.0 was developed by the Global Scientific Information and Computing Center (GSIC) of Tokyo Institute of Technology with the cooperation of several corporations in Japan and abroad, and started operation on November 1st 2010.

Start of operation was marked by an inaugural ceremony and a tour of Tsubame2.0 on December 2nd at Tokyo Tech Front.

The predecessor—Tsubame1—was ranked the best performance supercomputer in Asia in 2006 and 2007 and recognized as a very easy-to-use supercomputer. Based on these previous achievements and with the continued aim of “supercomputing for everyone”, staff at the Global Scientific Information and Computing Center (GSIC) conducted extensive research on improving the performance and energy-efficiency simultaneously. Tsubame2.0 has a theoretical computing performance of 2.4 Petaflops (30 times greater than Tsubame1), communication performance of 200 terabytes per second (a 30-fold increase), memory capacity of 11 petabytes (a 10-fold increase), its power consumption is similar to that of Tsubame1, and it is about two-thirds the size.

Tsubame2.0 has already realized world-record level performance in actual applications in the fields of meteorology, biology and medical care, and is expected to play a key role in the national infrastructure of high-performance computation, HPCI (High Performance Computing Infrastructure).

Further information:

Tsubame2.0 system architecture: <http://tsubame.gsic.titech.ac.jp/en/tsubame2-system-architecture>

Tsubame2.0 video: <http://www.gsic.titech.ac.jp/node/348>



Opening address by President Kenichi Iga



Tape-cutting ceremony

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The activities of Kyushu University California Office

2011 Robert Huang Entrepreneurship Program (QREP) Has Been Completed by Kyushu University California Office



Lecture on Entrepreneurship

One of the main goals of Kyushu University (KU) California Office (CA Office) is to expose students to different ideas and cultures through various programs and to bring as many students as possible to Silicon Valley or, otherwise, to the United States. In order to achieve such an objective of internationalization, CA Office and Intellectual Property Management Center of Kyushu University (IMAQ) co-hosted the Kyushu University Robert Huang Entrepreneurship Program (QREP). This is the sixth QREP we have conducted.

This program is an annual Silicon Valley Program utilizing a fund donated by Dr. Robert Huang, who graduated from Kyushu University and became very successful in the United States as the CEO and Founder of SYNEX Corporation. Many other alumni joined him in contributions. The main objective of this program is to educate students in entrepreneurship spirits including self-establishment, challenging spirits, multi-culture environment and how to nurture leadership. Students stayed in Silicon Valley for a week, and received lectures by visionaries of Silicon Valley and visited several companies and Stanford University.

From February 27th to March 5th, 21 KU students, along with 5 Waseda University students, came to Silicon Valley and deeply immersed themselves in Silicon Valley's culture, such as its high-tech environment, entrepreneurial spirits, venture capital activities, innovation spirits and its broad cultural diversity. All students were so active and enthusiastic that we always ran out of Q&A time. After the lectures were over, we observed students making a long line to talk to the lecturers. As a highlight of this program, they presented business plans to Stanford University students. Japanese students introduced their own business ideas that they want to bring to the United States. In order to achieve this task, students had to discuss and re-write their business plans again and again until late into the night. The presentation stimulated both Japanese and Stanford students and led to a deeper understanding of the cultural differences and similarities between both countries.

At the farewell reception, all students made a short speech on what they learned through this program. We were so pleased to find many students thinking outside the box. They learned to see things from a new perspective. Their speeches made us re-realize how important this week was for them. Even though QREP was a short program, its impact has been quite immense.



Field Trip at ORACLE



Discussion with Stanford University students

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Dr. Teruaki Enoto

2005: B.S., in Physics, The University of Tokyo, Japan

2007: M.S., in Physics, The University of Tokyo, Japan

2007-2010: JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1)

2010: Ph.D., in Physics, The University of Tokyo, Japan

2010-present: JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad

Teruaki ENOTO is an astronomer working on high energy phenomena in the active universe. He focuses on X-ray and gamma-ray observations of enigmatic celestial objects, such as black holes, neutron stars, and magnetars (strange compact objects left behind after supernova explosions). He is particularly interested in understanding the latter. Magnetars are ultra-strongly magnetized neutron stars, often thought of as "strongest magnets" in the universe. Although bright X-rays have been observed from magnetars, it is still a mystery from where and how such emissions originate. In addition, magnetars are thought to be an ideal laboratory for fundamental physics, since their magnetic field is so intense that photons may behave differently. Teruaki studied the X-ray spectroscopy of magnetars using the joint Japanese-U.S. observatory "Suzaku", and found a classification of magnetars based on the spectroscopy and stellar ages. These astronomical observations will have an impact not only on astronomy itself but also on fundamental physics. He is currently visiting the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology at Stanford University and SLAC (SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory), and studying analyses of the gamma-ray satellite "Fermi". He is also developing instruments for next generation missions, for example, soft gamma-ray detectors on board the ASTRO-H observatory.

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

The United States is obviously a leading country in astronomy and astrophysics. Although recent progress in internet technology allows us to know the latest papers, the U.S. is the best place to partici-

pate in fresh discussions. Raw information is more important than cooked papers. In addition, at the moment, famous great observatories, e.g., "Chandra", "Spitzer", "Swift", and "Fermi", are now operating in the U.S.

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

An efficient research environment has been developed in the U.S. in order for researchers to concentrate on studies without being occupied with miscellaneous duties. In Japan, scientists are sometimes bothered with odd duties like many ineffectual meetings, preparations for conferences, and maintenance of computers. This seems to be partially due to a shortage of hands, and partially due to the cultural background of Japan. On the other hand, in the U.S. non-scientific issues are correctly handled with professional support staff. Most preparations for conferences and computer maintenance are arranged by the staff. Besides, snacks or even wine are served in seminars to make participants comfortable. High productivity is thus supported by the underlying, well-developed environment. We have a lot of things to learn about research environments.

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

Since a lot of ambitious researchers are rushing into the U.S., we can see a great deal of diversity and an internationality. In particular, we can find a tough challenging spirit. Some people are so ambitious that they easily reach be-

yond the wall of research fields, jumping into quite new topics.

Researches here seem comfortable exploring new ideas and following their curiosity into unknown theoretical territory. Some great seminal research has been produced this way. And, these new ideas often spawn productive collaborations. In such cases, these collaboration seem to work very well. Therefore, one of the great merits to studying in the U.S. is to learn this challenging spirit in a vibrant atmosphere.

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

As a short-term goal, I want to resolve the mystery of the emission mechanism of magnetars. In the long-term, I want to find a new discovery space in astronomy, for example, developing and using an X-ray interferometer observatory. Instead of following a fashionable research trend, I would prefer to perform research with originality even in a minor field, and dare to be different from others. It will be a nice experience for students or young researchers to visit and study abroad at an earlier age. However it will be hard for Japanese to study in a competitive environment, especially using a foreign language. In such cases, it will be helpful to have a speciality or rare skill. And also, young researchers, myself included, have to concentrate on a major goal rather than sticking to minor issues. To summarize, we could research anywhere, inside Japan, or in the U.S. or anywhere in the world, but studying abroad for a while and experiencing a different way of thinking is priceless.