



JSPS Stockholm Newsletter

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Innovation, Society 5.0 and Industry 4.0, but still basic research

Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director, JSPS Stockholm Office

We now live in the real globalization age. I see people in Stockholm enjoying sunny and unusually hot summer these days, and simultaneously I learn what's happening in Japan and across the world through my smartphone or personal computer. Thanks to the advancements in information technologies we can share and feel experiences together that we were living together with other people on our globe, even though we do not know the actual lives of the individuals.

In the field of science and technology policy, I see trendy words rapidly spreading across the world and simultaneously being referred to by many people involved in the policy making. A good example for this is "innovation". This word and its concept are seen in almost all documents stating the current and future policy of science and technology all over the world. In Japan, the Council for Science and Technology Policy that was established in 2001 by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government was re-organized as the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI) just by replacing the word "policy" with "innovation" in 2014 (<http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/index.html>). In Sweden the Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (abbreviated as VINNOVA in Swedish, <https://www.vinnova.se>) was founded with a vision "to strengthen Sweden as a country of research and innovation" as early as in 2001. It was far prior to the spreading of the word and concept of "innovation" in the world. Therefore, I admire the great foresight of people who played a role in the foundation of VINNOVA more than 17 years ago. Also, in countries other than Japan and Sweden the word "innovation" was widely found in documents for science and technology policy. In Norway, for example, the "Strategy for Innovation" was repeatedly emphasized in a report of the Research Council of Norway (RCN) in 2017 (https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Annual_report/1138785841818). In the scope of entire Europe the concept of "Strategy on Research and Innovation" is clearly expressed in the well-known project called "Horizon 2020" of the European Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy_en). Thus, it is hard to see the documents on science and technology policy in the world that do not refer to the word "innovation".

Now I feel a little bit tired of the repeated appearance of the word "innovation" in many documents. Instead of the "innovation", I have recently noticed that the phrase "Society 5.0" become often used in the documents for science and technology policy in Japan. For example, see the website of the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government (https://www.japan.go.jp/abonomics/_userdata/abonomics/pdf/society5_0.pdf). These English words appear to implicate the new smart society after the four stages of the development of society such as 1) Hunting and Gathering Society, 2) Agricultural Society, 3) Industrial Society and 4) Information Society. In this essay, I will not discuss the concept of "Society 5.0", but just express my

feeling when I saw these words in the documents and websites of various institutions of the Japanese Government. In those documents the phrase "Society 5.0" is not translated into Japanese, and remains as such. The mixture of English words or phrases with Japanese in official Japanese documents seems to be very strange. Nevertheless the science and technology policy makers such as CSTI dare to use "Society 5.0" in the Japanese text when addressing the common people. This seems to be very unusual in the official documents of the Japanese Government. Recently, I have realized that it might be influenced by the phrase "Industry 4.0". This phrase was originally expressed by the German Government in regards to a project for high-technology strategy to promote computerization or digitalization of manufacturing in industry (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry_4.0). It is said that these words represent the concept of the 4th industrial revolution. Consequently, it seems to give substantial influences to the policy of technology and industry in the world. When I navigated through websites, I found many sites that announce meetings and reports regarding "Industry 4.0". Therefore, I have learned that these words and the implicated concept are widely known all over the world. On these grounds I guess that the English phrase "Society 5.0" is used in the documents of the Japanese Government without hesitation.

The concepts behind the phrases "Society 5.0" and "Industry 4.0" represent governmental top-down projects that each government thinks are important and necessary for development of society and competitiveness of respective countries. Even so, I would like to emphasize that basic research of the bottom-up type is necessary for the development of such top-down projects. The real innovative ideas and projects often originate from findings of basic research. In this sense the balance of top-down projects and bottom-up basic research is important, as I mentioned in the previous issue of this newsletter (Vol 29, English Edition).



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/tablet-icon-app-facebook-1616460/>)

Meeting for Headquarters for International Affairs / JSPS Overseas Offices Directors Meeting

On May 25, a JSPS Directors meeting together with a meeting for headquarters for international affairs, was held in Tokyo. The meeting serves to offer the various overseas JSPS offices to evaluate and share ideas. Director Tsumoto was in attendance and returned to share new ideas and information regarding the status of JSPS overseas offices. First, JSPS Head Office offered the latest information about the newly-created mid-term goal & plan, reorganization, and the current situation of their activities. Then, the directors presented their office's activities. which was followed by a discussion regarding the overseas office's mission and management.

MIRAI Sustainability Workshop

On June 7 and 8, the MIRAI Sustainability Workshop was held at University of Gothenburg under the theme of "From source to sink – Human society and the flow of water." Around thirty participants from Swedish and Japanese member universities enjoyed discussing the topic "Sustainability" from several viewpoints and academic interactions. Attending from JSPS Stockholm Office were Director Tsumoto and International Program Associate Ishida.

The workshop's focus was how researchers within the fields of; groundwater pollution, urban planning, waste water treatment technologies and ecosystem effects of effluent in the marine environment, can collaborate in a multidisciplinary way to address societally important questions.

On the second day, presentations about funding sources were given by representatives of the two countries' funding agencies: Director Tsumoto and Dr. Andreas, Executive Director of STINT. It was a successful event that spanned two days and achieved great exchange of new multinational and cross-disciplinary research ideas. The event ended with presentation and discussion looking towards the next MIRAI sustainability symposium which will be held in Tokyo in October of 2018.



Göteborg University

Source: https://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university



Group photo of the participants

Finland-Japan workshop: “The Next Generation Medical Engineering in Biomaterials”

On June 18-21, a Bilateral Program funded joint seminar titled Finland-Japan Workshop: “The Next Generation Medical Engineering in Biomaterials”, was held at University of Oulu in Finland. Representatives from JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and International Program Associate Igei, attended on the first day.

After the welcome speech at the opening ceremony by Prof. Petri Lehenkari, University of Oulu, and Prof. Masaya Yamamoto, Tohoku University, Director Tsumoto introduced the JSPS programs and activities. Across five days and with approximately 100 participants from academic institutions in Japan and Finland, the event was successful in exchanging ideas and allowing researchers to network in the field of medical engineering in biomaterials and other fields.



Prof. Yamamoto, Prof. Lehenkari, and Director Tsumoto



Director Tsumoto

JSPS European Offices Deputy Directors Meeting

On July 20, a JSPS European Offices Deputy Directors meeting was held at JSPS London Office. The meeting serves to offer the various overseas JSPS offices to evaluate and share ideas. For this meeting, Deputy Director Yoshihara was in attendance together with Deputy Director Itoi, JSPS London Office; Deputy Director Deguchi, JSPS Bonn Office; and Deputy Director Saiki, JSPS Strasbourg Office. This meeting involved the presentation and discussion regarding respective office’s business situation as well as the commonly shared topics such as the new EU GDPR policy introduced in May of this year.



Deputy Director Itoi, Deputy Director Deguchi, Deputy Director Yoshihara, and Deputy Director Saiki

ACD Board Meeting



ACD board meeting at JARA FY2017

On May 3, the JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD) held a Board Meeting on Skype. Participating in the meeting were Chair Prof. Carl Winsløw, Prof. Gunhild Borggreen and Dr. Jacob Kreutzfeldt. Among discussion of the past year and future plans for the upcoming year of FY2019, one of the points during the meeting was a reflection and new idea based on the previous Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA) that was held in FY2017 in Copenhagen. They agreed to continue discussion towards the success of FY2018's JARA. The next meeting was planned to be held in December 2018. Please refer to Chair Carl Winsløw's interview inside this newsletter issue on page 8.

ACF Board Meeting

On June 6 through 13, the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) held an online Board Meeting. Chair Dr. Ville Syrjälä, Prof. Michael Gasik, Dr. Simon Puglisi, Dr. Joni Kujansuu, Prof. Elna Oksanen, Prof. Kiyohiko Igarashi attended, and this marked their first meeting on the ACF board. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and Office Assistant Tashima joined. Among discussion of the past year and future plans for the upcoming year of FY2019, one of the points was discussing a possible upcoming Activity Seminar to be held in the last quarter of FY2018. They confirmed further collaboration with JSPS Stockholm Office in preparation for the Activity Seminar.



ACF All Alumni Meeting FY2017 group photo

Preparatory Board Meeting of the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway

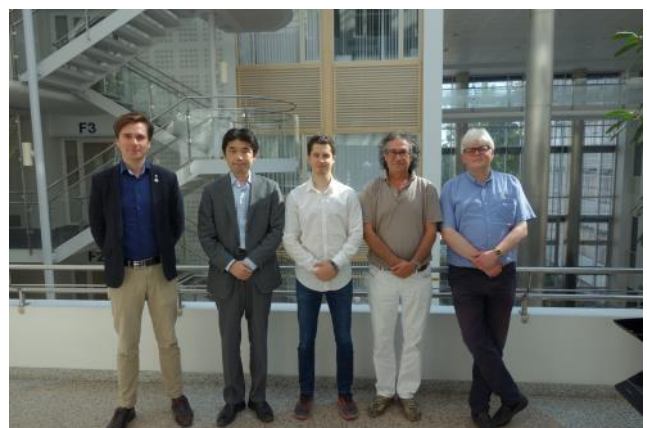
On July 25, the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN) held the first preparatory Board Meeting in Oslo at Research Council Norway (RCN). Three former JSPS fellows came to the meeting and two others participated through Skype. Attending the meeting from JSPS Stockholm Office was Deputy Director Yoshihara and Office Assistant Granström. After careful consideration, the new board members were decided as such: Anders Øverby, Board Chair; Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Vice-Chair; Bruno Laeng, Board Member; CJ Beegle-Krause, Board Member; Yuka Kitamura, Board Member.

Then, the participants proposed their ideas how they can collaborate in future activities. Deputy Director Yoshihara made a presentation about the purpose and concept of the alumni club and other clubs' activities.

The preparatory meeting was successful in fruiting collaboration possibilities between the organizations and towards the possible establishment of a JSPS Alumni Club in Norway.



Preparatory Board Meeting of the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway at RCN



Group photo of the participants

2018.05.15 Visit to VINNOVA

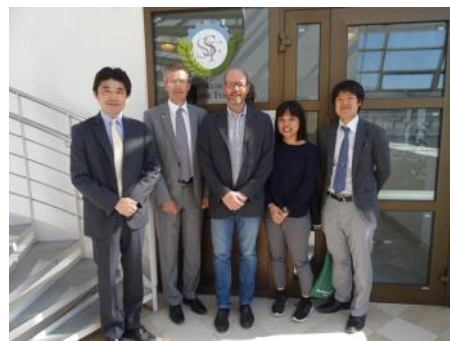
Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associates Ishida and Igei paid a courtesy visit to the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) and met with Dr. Joakim Appelquist, Acting Director General and Head of International Cooperation, Dr. Henrik Fridén, Programme Manager and Ms. Birgitta Boman, Programme Manager. During the meeting, both parties exchanged ideas of how to further strengthen international collaboration between JSPS Stockholm Office and VINNOVA.



Dr. Fridén, Ms. Boman, Dr. Appelquist, Deputy Director Yoshihara, Mr. Ishida, and Ms. Igei

2018.05.24 Visit to SSF

Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associates Ishida and Igei paid a courtesy visit to the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) and met with Dr. Lars Hultman, Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Joakim Amorim, Program Manager. SSF presented their introduction and shared event information of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sweden and Japan.



Deputy Director Yoshihara, Dr. Hultman, Dr. Amorim, Ms. Igei, and Mr. Ishida

2018.06.14 Visit to KVA

Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Associates Ishida and Igei paid a courtesy visit to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) and met with Dr. Per Hedenqvist, Executive Director, Mr. Peter Brandén, Programme Coordinator, Dr. Heléne Sundström, Scientific Secretary, and Ms. Ylva Borgegård, Evaluation Coordinator. Both parties reviewed this year's fellowship programs and shared information on KVA-JSPS Seminar for FY2018.



Mr. Ishida, Ms. Igei, Dr. Sundström, Mr. Brandén, and Ms. Borgegård

2018.07.09 Visit by Prof. Yamada from NIFS

Prof. Hiroshi Yamada; Fellow, National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS); Visiting Professor, the University of Tokyo; Program Officer, Research Center for Science Systems of JSPS; visited JSPS Stockholm Office. He attended the 45th European Physical Society Conference on Plasma Physics which was held in Prague, Czech Republic, and visited our office. We shared overviews of our office and JSPS international programs, and exchanged opinions on scientific collaboration.



Mr. Ishida, Prof. Yamada and Deputy Director Yoshihara

Omiyage Culture and Tourism Identity

Viktor Granström, Assistant, JSPS Stockholm Office

When I travel to Japan from Sweden, I am every time faced with the imminent, and somewhat stressful, issue of what to bring. I am not in particular talking about what clothes, devices and accessories to bring but instead about one of Japan's curious culture traits: "*Omiyage*."

Omiyage is the Japanese word for gifts and is not just a word, but a culture. An *Omiyage* box could be a brightly coloured chocolate box; a cream filled banana souvenir sweet from Tokyo, "*Shiroi Koibito*" (white lady) butter cookie from Hokkaido; "*Jagariko*" rice cakes from Osaka; or Kobe city's favourite "*Castella*" cakes.

But these edible souvenirs are more than just mere afternoon snack. These gifts are after purchased something you would give to your friends, colleagues, and family after returning from a trip and not only from my own experience but from hearing about this culture in Japan from natives, it is interesting to note the importance of gift giving. Even in some cases, it is almost serious business, this meaning that it could be a social taboo if your

s, knowing you went on a trip, showed up on the next workday without anything tasty to share on the next meeting. But this varies from company to company within Japan. Sweden, on the other hand, have no such culture where one buys gifts from a trip to distribute to colleagues as a routine. Surely gift purchasing is something we Swedish people do, but it is not on the same level as Japan where in some instances it could feel as something you *need* to do. The lack of gift giving culture in Sweden, and arguably most of the surrounding nations and Europe, might explain the, relative to Japan, low amount of gift shops. In Japan, you need not walk far from your train to find yourself inside the main hall of the train station and be able to observe large amounts of stacked *Omiyage* boxes from various local brands inside the city you are visiting.

This is also an important point I want to make regarding *Omiyage*; they also serve as an identity for cities, and as such a great tool for tourism.

In Sweden when you visit a city; say Vaxholm, a small city but a large tourist spot and hub for traveling out into the Swedish archipelago, it is not obvious for you at first what to buy if you are looking for a gift. As somebody who grew up in Vaxholm and have worked in restaurants there, I have had difficulty in explaining what tourist should buy. The only thing that comes to mind is the local chocolate and tea shop. But what Vaxholm, and many cities in Sweden, are seemingly focusing at is more about selling their city for their experiences and lifestyle; visiting local cafes and eating food only available locally. And looking at many gift shops in Stockholm, the capital city, you can see more of a focus on selling items that identify and express Sweden as a whole, instead of something local to the



Tokyo Banana

Source: <https://www.tokyobanana.jp/>

city itself. Instead, if you were to visit a Swedish international airport, you would most likely see things such as: Viking helmets, handmade wooden butter knives and so called "*Dalarhästar*" which have become one of the main gifts that represent Sweden as the country historically was an important exporter of handmade goods.

While, as a Swedish person, I might be able to identify any local gifts with and said city, in Japan it is very much different. As I listed earlier in this column, there are edible gifts that are sold in their local cities, and the interesting point is to observe how much these cities push to help these gifts become a part of the cities identity. Arguably, the most famous example is the "*Tokyo Banana*", the creamed filled sweet mentioned earlier. This gift is something a Japanese will most likely know about even if you have not visited Tokyo itself, and even if you did not you will surely know about it the moment you step out of the airplane and head through gift shop area as the sweet banana gift boxes are sold en masse at almost every transportation hub that tourist are sure to pass through. On the other hand, in Sweden, you might have to work your way towards the local tourist area, or to wait until you head back to the airport, to actually find any gift shops.

It is clear to me that Japan is ahead in regards to this interesting gift culture, and also how cities are marketing themselves with the help of this gift culture. In Japan you can know in advance when visiting a city what to expect, what the city represent and what to bring home to your friends. But in Sweden even if you try to look it up on the Internet, you might be finding yourself empty handed.

As I look to visit Japan once again, I am distraught with the thought of what to purchase for my friends in Japan. There is no "*Tokyo Banana*" for Stockholm, the city in which I live. But all I can do is to bring something I know and like myself, even though it is something not recognized as "*Swedish*": Tea from the local tea shop, and candy packages of "*Ahlgrens Bilar*".

The JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark

In this section we have a message from **Professor Carl Winsløw**, Chair of the Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD). He will talk about the ACD and its activities.

Overview of ACD

- **Establishment:** 2015
- **Number of Members:** 40
- **Chair:** Carl Winsløw, Professor, University of Copenhagen, Department of Science Education, Didactics of Mathematics
- **Main Activities:** ACD Activity Seminar, Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA), General Assembly, Board Meetings, Newsletter
- **Rules and Regulations:** Stipulated in the Articles of the Club



Prof. Carl Winsløw

Q: Could you briefly introduce yourself and tell us about your relationship with the JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD)?

A: Since my PhD studies in pure mathematics at the University of Tokyo (1991-1994), I have engaged in multiple collaborative research projects with Japanese colleagues and visited Japan several times – five times with the support of JSPS. Therefore, it is natural for me to join the Alumni Club and support its efforts to promote research collaboration with Japan in general, and JSPS Fellowship Programs in particular.

Q: Could you briefly give us an overview of your alumni club?

A: Like Denmark, it is a small community with approximately 40 members. Many of the members are university researchers who continue to have an active network of scientific collaborators in Japan, often renewed through later visits.

There are also members who have moved into the world of business and industry, which is of increasing importance for research in many areas of academia, such as the natural and technical sciences. Another significant group of members come from the humanities, in particular scholars who focus on Japanese language, culture and art. The scientific activities of the club should reflect this variety of interests, and hopefully contribute to form new links not only between research communities in the two countries, but also between the various fields of expertise just mentioned.

Our main activities throughout the year are ACD Activity Seminar, Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA), the General Assembly, Board Meetings and a newsletter published to our members to inform them of upcoming seminars and alumni club related news.



ACD Board Members and JSPS Staff

Q: How can people who are interested in your Alumni Club become a member?

A: Please visit the JSPS Stockholm Office website (<http://www.jps-sto.com/alumni-club/alumni-club-in-denmark/>), read about the Club, and fill out the application form (<http://www.jps-sto.com/alumni-club/application-for-membership/>). It does not cost anything to be a member. However, full membership requires you to be a former JSPS fellow (i.e. recipient of a grant from JSPS, such as a postdoctoral or invitational fellowship).

Q: What were the Club's main activities of FY2017, and what activities is the Club planning for FY2018?

A: The main activities are the JARA in February-March (usually in connection with the General Assembly) and the Activity Seminar which is usually held in fall. A newsletter is sent out to announce these and other events of interest to the members; it is usually issued four-six times a year. This description holds for both FY2017 and FY2018. In FY2017, the focal point of the JARA was the celebration of 150 years of diplomatic relations between Denmark and Japan. In FY2018, our Activity Seminar will be held at Aarhus University on October 11. The main topic is "Japan and African Natural Resources." I hope some of the readers will join the Activity Seminar. For further information, visit this website: <http://www.jps-sto.com/event/the-activity-seminar-organized-by-jps-alumni-club-in-denmark/>

Q: Do you have any message for our newsletter readers?

A: Scientists with an interest in JSPS should not hesitate to contact me if they wish to be kept informed of the Club's activities. This may in particular be the case for scientists residing in Southern Sweden, which is quite close to Copenhagen. I am very much looking forward to meeting you in our Alumni Club soon!



Prof. Mōri, invited speaker at the ACD Activity Seminar FY2017



Panel discussion during JARA FY2017



Assoc. Prof. Borggreen, invited speaker at the JARA FY2016

In this section we ask Japanese Researchers to present their experience and research in their respective country. For this issue we asked Dr. Aki Tsuruta, a researcher present at the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) since February 2018, to present her research and experiences in Finland.

Dr. Aki Tsuruta

Title/Position: Senior Research Scientist

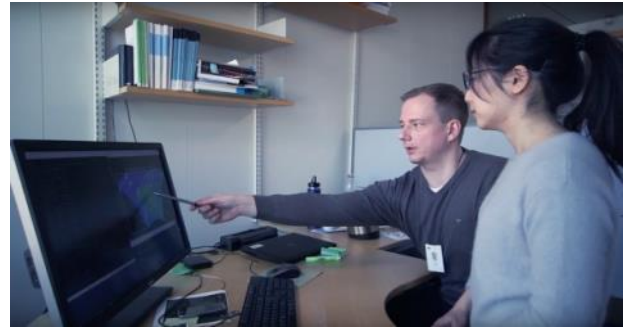
Affiliation: Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)



Years	Degree	Institute and Location
2018	Ph.D.	Doctoral Programme in Mathematics and Statistics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
2011	M.Sc.	Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
2010	B.S.	Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
Position:		
2018.02 - present		Senior Research Scientist; Climate Research Unit, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland
2018.03 - 2018.08		Postdoctoral Researcher; Center for Global Environmental Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan
2011.09 - 2018.01		Research Scientist; Climate Research Unit, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland
2011.06 - 2011.08		Summer trainee; Earth Observation Unit, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Q: What are you currently researching in Finland?

A: The current research topic is about understanding the effect of greenhouse gases to climate change. The greenhouse gases are emitted from both human activities and natural processes, and are removed by natural processes and chemical reactions in the atmosphere. At Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), we are combining knowledge from modelling and observations in order to give further understanding about the interactions between human and natural processes and their contributions to atmospheric conditions.



Researching at FMI

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hSur2oS7VQ>

Q: How did you get interested in your research subject?

A: During the undergraduate studies, statistics was my major subject. I was interested in application more than the theory, and came into one course: “Application of spatial statistics to geosciences.” It was a very interesting course which gave me a completely new perspective about application of statistical methods. In addition, climate change is a complicated problem that cannot be resolved without knowledge from a wide range of fields, which is also a point that keeps me interested in this topic.

Q: Why did you choose your current institution to conduct your research?

A: As I got interested in the statistical application to geosciences, I wished to learn from Dr. Marko Laine, a researcher at FMI. Dr. Laine is one of the top scientists in the development of statistical methods in meteorology and climate sciences. He kindly supervised my Master’s thesis, and let me work for FMI as a summer intern student, which gave me a chance to work at FMI later on.

Q: What has been the most challenging in your research so far?

A: There are many challenges while carrying out my research, but what I found important is communication. It is essential to get to know and talk to other scientists from all over the world through e.g. international conferences to establish own research community and find out latest information which has not yet published. This will enable us to conduct the best state-of-art research, which would advance and benefit the research field and the society.

Q: Compared to Japan, what is your impression of the research environment in Finland?

A: In Finland, as for its geographical location, we have strong connection with Europe, and Boreal and Arctic regions, where much collaborative research is carried with. In addition, in FMI, we have researchers from outside of Finland. Therefore, I feel English is used much more compared to Japan for presentations, reading and writing articles and reports, and emails. Another point is that regardless of experiences, we tend to give a big task and its responsibilities even to students. In the beginning, I was given this simulation model that was new to be implemented at FMI. This model was successfully implemented and has been developed together with my colleagues, and due to its uniqueness, it is now used in many collaborative works.



Meeting Professor and examiner before doctoral dissertation oral examination at FMI

Q: Do you have any advice for young scientists who dream of going to Finland to do research?

A: Finland offers a lot of opportunities to make your dream come true both in work and personal life. Finnish people are, in general, not very talkative, and the bosses tend to give only minimum information to carry out your work. This will let you think on you own, and your problem-solving skills will surely improve. However, if you’re stuck at any point, just go and ask. They’ll be very happy to help you. If you wish to become friends with the Finns, get beer and go to Sauna with them. Naked, of course, and if you manage to get into the lakes (may be frozen) or even swim, you’ll surely become true friends! Enjoy!

Minister Tells Universities to Stop Academic Inbreeding

University World News reports that an investigation and the following report by the Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers (SULF) into academic inbreeding at three Swedish universities has led to an increased public debate and that the issue has been intensified. Numerous allegations have been reported of job announcements that are essentially so specific that “all but the name of the preferred candidate is effectively given.”

In response to the report from SULF, Fredrik Christensson, a Centre Party MP, directed a question to Minister of Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson asking about the actions the minister and government will take to allow more transparent and legally secure recruitment processes at these higher education institutions.

In response, Hellmark Knutsson said in parliament that she welcomes the SULF report and the suspicion of said recruitment process is severe. “The suspicion that recruitment to universities is not following the law is serious. Sweden is going to be one of the world’s foremost research countries and a leading knowledge nation. The competence recruited is decisive for quality at the universities and hence the competitive position of universities of Sweden.”

She continued: “It is the responsibility of the universities and university colleges to see that recruitment is carried out according to the regulations.” Furthermore, she expects that they now take on this responsibility and that she will follow up the question in the regular dialogues she has with the higher education institutions.

Mats Benner, professor in science policy studies at Lund University School of Economics and Management, also visiting professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, NIFU in Oslo, and King’s College in London, said that he is optimistic that the inbreeding culture of academic recruitment inside Swedish Universities are now subject to change. “If Swedish universities are to elevate their international standing, that division needs to come to an end and be superseded with only one recruitment channel. One important precondition for this is a reform of university funding with a larger proportion of floor funding.”

Source: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180525105607509>



Offices of Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers
Source: <https://sulf.se/en/about-sulf/>

The 6th Japan-Norway Joint Committee Meeting on Cooperation in Science & Technology

On June 6, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) held the 6th Japan-Norway Joint Committee Meeting on Cooperation in Science and Technology in Tokyo. The Joint Committee Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Nakane, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation of MOFA and Ms. Kari Balke Øiseth, Director General, Department of Higher Education, Research and International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Research of Norway (MER). Attendees included a range of representatives from the relevant ministries and agencies of both countries as well as from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan.

From JSPS Headquarters, Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi, Head of Overseas Fellowship Division of International Program Department, attended and made a presentation about JSPS and its international programs.

During the meeting both sides shared the recent developments of national science technology and innovation policies and exchanged views on the current situation of bilateral cooperation activities. Four main priority areas regarding the situation of bilateral cooperation and future directions were as follows: energy and the environment; space and polar research; nano-technology and new materials; and marine research, all of which were identified at the last committee meeting that was held in 2015. A new area for this committee meeting was “health, care and welfare technology.” Seeking further cooperation between universities and research institutions the committee discussed the ways for how to promote this through for example dispatching of researchers.



Group photo of the participants

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page25e_000202.html

Expert Group Proposes Higher Student Loans, Lower Grants

A new proposal from the advisory Danish Economic Council has been made that a great proportion of student financing shall be allocated as a loan rather than a grant. The council suggested in their economic outlook that this change be implemented at the master's level. The report from the advisory concludes among several things that total spending and total support in the economic support system has exceeded a level that can be justified. The report also states that through international research and analysis there is indication that making the switch from grants to loan will have a limited impact on admission and study completion rates among the targeted group at master's level.

The response to this proposal remains mixed, with argument on the opposing side including opinions that this proposal is going against equal access to education as well as social mobility. A Danish think-tank, DAE, which engages with higher education responded positively, said that their support was conditional on money saved through the new proposal to be channeled into higher education to, for example, increase the number of lectures or strengthen supervision and feedback to students.

A concrete proposal has not yet been established or sent to the parliament. One of the reasons being that there is a considerable political risk involved in doing so as such reforms might be opposed by different groups in parliament and voters might punish parties advocating towards this new proposal.



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/mentor-school-students-college-3513738/>)

Source: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180601131337687>

The Benefits and Risks of Higher Education Internationalization



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/earth-globe-planet-world-147591/>)

Following United States President Donald Trump's policy and the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, it is uncertain how the internationalization of higher education for both the US and the UK, but also other continents and countries, will progress. A national implemented survey of vice-presidents and institution-level administrators who are responsible for international affairs or internationalization in all national, local public and private universities, were conducted by the Research Institute for Higher Education in Japan. The national survey was implemented in 744 universities and colleges and by April 2017, 173 responses had been received.

As a result of the survey, among the main benefits of internationalization agreed by the higher education leaders were students' increased international awareness, followed by staff's increased national awareness and promoting international collaboration and partnership. The lowest response was to revenue generation with 27%, with no research-intensive universities ticking this box. All national public leaders emphasized the importance of promoting international collaboration, followed by strengthening research and knowledge creation and a general increased international awareness among students.

As for the risks of internationalization, across the three sectors surveyed, there were opinions that growing gaps between universities within the countries posed a risk.

Other examples including overemphasizing the acceptance of international students and that increasing gaps between regions and countries might become a problem. Both research-intensive universities and other universities see the so called 'emergence of elitism' as the number one risk followed by 'growing gaps between universities within the country.'

In general, the survey concluded that the internationalization of Japanese higher education is still highly valued and academically prioritized. They list higher responses concerning students' and staff's international awareness and international collaboration and partnership in research and knowledge creation. This in contrast to those countries where internationalization is mainly expected to generate more revenue at the institutional level.

Source: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180508094144222>

Universities Must Step Up to Cater For “Society 5.0”

Making Japan “the most innovation-friendly country in the world” is one of the Japanese government’s key goals according to Yuko Harayama, former executive member of the Japanese Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, who discussed Japan’s Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation at a meeting of German and Japanese researchers at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, on July 5, 2018.

Among 50 representatives and researchers from almost a dozen Japanese universities attending the event, Harayama explained that Japan has published a Science and Technology Basic Plan every five years since 1995, when the Japanese government introduced the Science and Technology Basic Law. This plan centers on the national strategy in science, technology and innovation.

Japan is currently half way through the Fifth Science and Technology Basic plan, set between 2016-2020, which seeks to develop a so called “super smart society” – or “Society 5.0.” This concept was introduced by the Japanese government and its Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, under which various challenges for this century were addressed: the ageing population, climate change, food security, the limited availability of natural resources and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Instead of the technology-driven approaches pursued so far, Japan’s present strategy incorporates a human-centered approach. This aims to create an inclusive society in which everyone shares the same opportunities and that guarantees economic growth and well-being for all regardless of age, gender, location, language or other limitations.

There are two aspects of the 2017 strategy that will have an effect on universities across the nations, according to Harayama.

One of them is to support mechanism for promoting open innovation. This means for universities that they are requested to open their doors in several aspects. One implication being a new way of doing science: open science. Harayama mentions that while there are also huge resistances from the scientists themselves in regards to this new strategy with fears of data theft and losing competitiveness, this should be seen as a great opportunity for scientists to enlarge their expertise or develop new fields of research.

Secondly, to meet the requirements of the 2017 strategy would mean having to strengthen international collaboration in research and teaching and also in supporting junior scientists. Most young scientists working as postdocs were reported to have stayed at the same lab for several years, which goes against the strategy’s calling for diversity and career mobility. The government was therefore trying to provide incentives for them to go out to other institutions. Institutions should also be pushed to pursue more diversity of the student body. With society ageing, more and more people are going back to university later in life. “We ought to be able to welcome different types of students.” Harayama said, also with a view to universities opening up more to attract international students.

Source: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180711171755220>

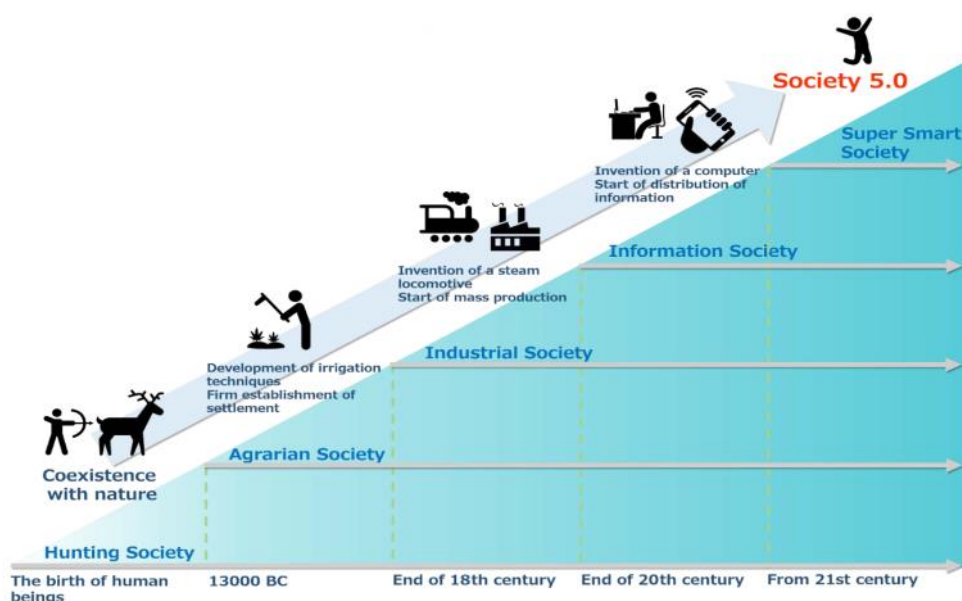


Photo: The evolutionary aspect of the Society 5.0 concept as introduced in the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan of Japan Source: Keidanren paper (PDF)
Source: http://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2016/029_outline.pdf

Japan Launcher H-IIA Rocket Carrying Intelligence-Gathering Satellite

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched on June 12th an H-IIA rocket carrying a radar-type intelligence-gathering government satellite from the Tanegashima Space Center based in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The satellite's main purpose is to monitor military facilities in North Korea and to take images of areas affected during natural disasters. This satellite exists among fourth radar satellite which captures radio waves reflected off the earth, and two optical based satellites which captures photos of the ground using a device similar to a normal digital camera. The government and JAXA aims to eventually operate 10 satellites in total, including relay satellites. The pictures taken by the satellites are marked classified except for those taken during natural disasters. As a way of hiding the original strength of the camera optics, the government chooses to downgrade the image quality before publishing.



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/satellite-space-spaceship-station-1030782/>)

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/06/12/national/science-health/japan-launches-h-ii-a-rocket-carrying-intelligence-gathering-satellite/>

Schedule for the Announcement of the Nobel Prize 2018

This year's Nobel Prize announcement dates have been published by The Nobel Foundation and is set to take place 1-8 October, 2018.

The Swedish Academy has reportedly decided to postpone the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, with the intention of awarding it in 2019. The prize-awarding institutions have been decided and will announce their decision as follows:

PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE – Monday, October 1, 11.30 a.m. at the earliest

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

PHYSICS – Tuesday, October 2, 11.45 a.m. at the earliest

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien, KVA)

CHEMISTRY – Wednesday, October 3, 11.45 a.m. at the earliest

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

PEACE – Friday, October 5, 11.00 a.m.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, the Norwegian Nobel Institute (Norska Nobelinstitutet)



Photo: Stockholm City Hall/Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/town-hall-stockholm-building-sweden-787878/>)

THE SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES IN MEMORY OF ALFRED NOBEL

– Monday, October 8, 11.45 a.m. at the earliest

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien, KVA)

Source: <https://www.nobelprize.org/press/#/publication/5b07d1666998e50004b719fe/552bd85dccc8e20c00e7f979?&sh=false>

Open call

JSPS Alumni Club Activity Seminar Call for Applications FY2019

Application period: August 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018

The JSPS Stockholm Office offers financial support for activity seminars organized by members of the JSPS Alumni Clubs in Sweden (SAC), Finland (ACF) and Denmark (ACD). All board and regular members are eligible to apply for activity seminar funding.

More information including documents application procedure and forms please visit this website:

<http://www.jspsto.com/event/call-for-alumni-club-activity-seminar-applications-fy2019/>

Upcoming Seminars and Symposia

JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) Activity Seminar in Linköping

Two-day JSPS SAC Seminar intending to gather researchers working in different aspects in relevant fields of environmental impact on reproduction and fertility, using a comparative approach. The goal is to provide a broad spectrum of research and current knowledge on the effects of our environment; aquatic or terrestrial, out in the field or within our house or working office, on the capabilities to reproduce.

For inquires and learning more about the programme, please visit this website:

<https://alvarezrodriguezmlu.wixsite.com/environm-reprod-fert/information>

Date and time: August 22, 2018, 11:00-18:30

August 23, 2018, 09:00-12:30

Venue: "Eken" Entrance 65, US campus, Linköping University, Sweden

Speakers: Prof. Teruhiko Wakayama, University of Yamanashi, Developmental Engineering; Prof. Manel López-Bejar, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Department of Health and Animal Anatomy

URL: <http://www.jspsto.com/event/the-1st-activity-seminar-organized-by-jspsto-alumni-club-in-sweden/>

RIKEN-KI Joint Symposium

Date and time: September 20, 2018

Venue: SciFiLab, Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden

URL: <http://www.jspsto.com/event/riken-ki-joint-symposium/>

IVA-JSPS Seminar

Sweden-Japan 150-Year Anniversary

Date and time: September 20, 2018, 17:00-19:00 [Open to the public]

September 21, 2018, 10:00-12:00 [Open to students]

Venue: IVA's Conference Centre (Sep 20, Thu), Sweden

KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sep 21, Fri), Sweden

Speakers: Prof. Hiroshi Amano, Nagoya University, Director, Institute of Materials and Systems for Sustainability Center for Integrated Research of Future Electronics, 2014 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics; Prof. Fredrik Laurell, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Department of Applied Physics

URL: <http://www.jspsto.com/event/iva-jspsto-seminar/>

Upcoming Seminars and Symposia

The 5th Japan-Lithuania Joint Science Symposium

Date and time: September 25, 2018

Venue: Research Council of Lithuania (RCL), Lithuania

Speakers: Prof. Makoto Asashima, Academic Adviser, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Teikyo University; Prof. Ryuichi Nishinakamura, Director, Kumamoto University, Institute of Molecular Embryology and Genetics; Dr. Mitsuo Ochi, President, Hiroshima University; Prof. Taisuke Tomita, the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/event/the-5th-japan-lithuania-joint-science-symposium/>

Sweden-Japan Space Science Symposium

Date and time: 8 October, 2018

Venue: The Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)

Speakers: Dr. Chiaki Mukai, Vice President, Tokyo University of Science, Astronaut; Dr. Christer Fuglesang, Royal Institute of Technology, Department of Physics and the Department of Aeronautical and Vehicle Engineering, Astronaut

The Activity Seminar organized by JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark

Date and time: 11-12 October, 2018

Venue: Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Speaker: Kazue Demachi, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, African Studies Center - TUFFS

URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/event/the-activity-seminar-organized-by-jsps-alumni-club-in-denmark/>

DIGIHUM Annual Seminar 2018

Date and time: 6 November, 2018

Venue: Helsinki, Finland

Speakers: Prof. Asanobu Kitamoto, National Institute of Informatics, Digital Content and Media Sciences Research Division

Sweden-Japan Joint Seminar

Sweden-Japan 150-Year Anniversary

Date and time: 13 November, 2018

Venue: Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institutet Solna Campus, Sweden

URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/event/sweden-japan-joint-seminar/>

The 2nd Activity Seminar for FY2018 organized by JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden

Date and time: 15-16 November, 2018

Venue: Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden

Speaker: Prof. Tomoko Nakanishi, the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences

URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/event/the-2nd-activity-seminar-organized-by-jsps-alumni-club-in-sweden/>

KVA-JSPS Seminar

Sweden-Japan 150-Year Anniversary

Date and time: 26 November, 2018

Venue: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)

Speakers: Prof. Takaaki Kajita, Director, Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, the University of Tokyo, 2015 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics; Dr. Hitoshi Murayama, Director, Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, the University of Tokyo

URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/event/kva-jsps-seminar/>

Regarding JSPS Stockholm Office Website Renewal

We are happy to inform you that we have just published our newly updated website.

Please look at: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/>

Regarding our policy on processing of personal data under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), was enforced on **May 25, 2018**. Based on this regulation, the JSPS Stockholm Office will take necessary actions when handling of personal information. If you have any inquiries regarding our policy for the handling of personal information, please contact us. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation on this matter.



Photo: TheDigitalArtist/Pixabay

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