



# JSPS Stockholm Newsletter

English Edition | Vol. 35

Winter 2019



Contents	Page
Prologue	2
Special Features	3
News	10
Reports	16
Column	21
Message from the Alumni Club Chair	22
Reports from Japanese Researchers in the Nordic/Baltic Nations	24
Academic Information	26
Notices	27

## “Ichigo Ichie”, the Japanese concept of “One meeting, One opportunity”

Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director, JSPS Stockholm Office

This is the first essay in newsletter of the year of 2019 so that I should have given New Year greetings. I realize, however, that this essay will appear much later after the New Year Days, probably in mid-February. In place of such a delayed greeting, therefore, I would like to describe my personal view about my experiences after I arrived at Stockholm in 2016.

In Japan there is a well-known aphorism, “Ichigo Ichie” that literally means “One meeting, One opportunity” or the only chance of a meeting with a particular person in a lifetime. This concept originates from the Way of Tea under the influence of Zen Buddhism and implicates that every encounter with a guest in a Tea ceremony may take place only once in a lifetime. In more general, each passing moment in everyday life should be regarded as quite unique and thus very precious in order to live meaningfully.

Since I came to the Stockholm Office about two years and a half ago I have met many people not only in Sweden but also in Norway, Finland, Denmark, Lithuania and other countries in Europe. There are some people whom I met repeatedly and thus became closely acquainted. Also there are other people whom I met only once and thus it might be the only chance to meet in a lifetime, as “Ichigo Ichie” implicates. Following the Japanese custom I often exchanged business cards with them. When I sorted out their business cards later in my office, I could remember their faces and the places where I met them. Sometimes, however, I was not able to remember where I met them and how they looked like, although their business cards are kept at my hand. As I mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter (English Edition Vol. 25, Summer 2016), our

recognition or remembrance of other people are dependent mostly on recalling their faces, because our brain is equipped with a plenty of “face neurons” in the temporal lobe. By realizing this fact consciously or unconsciously a few people have business cards showing pictures or sketchy portrait of their faces. This is quite helpful to remember them, although still exceptional at present.

Finally I would like to add that I met not only people who lived in the Nordic countries but also people who lived in Japan and were invited to seminars or symposia in the Nordic countries. They are mostly researchers whom I would not have met without coming to the Stockholm Office. Since I started my career as a researcher in neuroscience about 50 years ago I became acquainted with many researchers working in the field of neuroscience or in the related fields of biology or medicine. After I came to Stockholm I met many outstanding researchers in other fields such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, polar science, space science, environmental science, science ethics and many others. Therefore, I could expand or widen the scope of my view from just the field of neuroscience to many diverse fields of science.

In this year, thus, I am looking forward to meeting new as well as already acquainted people in the Nordic countries and would like to enjoy such an opportunity with great care, bearing the concept of “Ichigo Ichie” in mind.



geralt (<https://pixabay.com/>)



## KVA-JSPS Seminar with Prof. Kajita

On November 26, 2018, the KVA-JSPS Seminar titled “New Windows to the Universe” was held in the Beijer Hall at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) in Stockholm. Prof. Takaaki Kajita, Nobel Prize laureate in Physics in 2015, the University of Tokyo; and Prof. Hitoshi Murayama, the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Tokyo, presented lectures at the event together with other presenters from Lund University and Stockholm University. The event was a collaboration between KVA, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden and JSPS Stockholm Office. This series of events have been held annually since FY2009 and have served as a lecture-style seminar where Japanese researchers with a high interest in Sweden are invited to present and to further build research networks between researchers in Sweden and Japan. As the event was held in 2018, it was also a part of the 150th anniversary of Japan-Sweden diplomatic relations.

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Ishida and Office Assistant Ishii attended the event. The seminar was started by opening remarks from four representatives of the organizers: Prof. Dan Larhammer, President of KVA; Prof. Christina Moberg, the former President of KVA and the Chair of the planning committee for the seminar; H.E. Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden; and Dr. Yasuhiro Iye, Executive Director of JSPS. Following them, stimulating lectures about dark matter, neutrino and gravitational wave were given by six distinguished physicists from Sweden and Japan. At the panel conversation held in the end of program, they discussed some research subjects researchers in both countries have tackled and shared their prospects for future research. Approximately 100 audience gathered for this event and it was a fitting occasion to celebrate the 150th anniversary.



Photo of the lecturers

From the left: Prof. Murayama, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Tokyo; Dr. Doglioni, Lund University; Prof. Botner, Uppsala University; Prof. Danielsson, Uppsala University; Dr. O’Sullivan, Stockholm University; Prof. Conrad, Stockholm University; Dr. Church, Lund University; and Prof. Kajita, the University of Tokyo

Left: Prof. Murayama during his presentation



Right: Prof. Kajita during his presentation



## Special Features



President Larhammer



H.E. Ambassador Hiroki



Executive Director Iye



Former President and Chair  
Moberg



Photo at the event



Photo of the panel discussion

## Lecturer Information



### **Prof. Hitoshi Murayama**

#### **The University of California, Berkeley; the University of Tokyo, Japan**

Hitoshi Murayama is MacAdams Professor of Physics at the University of California, Berkeley and a Principal Investigator at the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe at the University of Tokyo which he led for 11 years as the founding Director. He is a recipient of Yukawa Commemoration Prize, Humboldt Research Award, and a Fellow of American Physical Society.



### **Prof. Takaaki Kajita**

#### **The University of Tokyo, Japan. 2015 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics**

Takaaki Kajita is the Special University Professor at the University of Tokyo, and also the Director of the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR) of the University of Tokyo. Kajita received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, School of Science in 1986, and has been researching at Kamiokande and Super-Kamiokande detectors at the Kamioka Observatory in central Japan. In 1998, at the Neutrino International Conference held in Takayama, Gifu, he showed the analysis results which provided strong evidence for atmospheric neutrino oscillations. In 2015, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for his role in discovering atmospheric neutrino oscillations. Currently, he is the project leader for KAGRA Project, aiming to explore the gravitational wave astronomy.

Source: <https://www.kva.se/sv/kalendarium/new-windows-to-the-universe>



### Nobel Week 2018

December 10 marks the passing of Alfred Nobel and is when the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony of each prize, except for the Peace Prize, is held at the Stockholm Concert Hall followed by the Nobel Banquet at the Stockholm City Hall. A week leading up to this day, also called the Nobel Week, is a series of various events that celebrate the laureates for the Nobel Prize.

#### **December 6, Signing Chairs at the Nobel Museum**

The laureates visit the Nobel Museum in Stockholm's Old Town where they traditionally write their signatures under the chairs of the museum restaurant, called Bistro Nobel.

This year's Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology or Medicine Prof. Tasuku Honjo, Kyoto University, Institute for Advanced Study, also provided the museum with a calligraphy drawing of his personal motto: "Yushi-kyosei". An idiom meaning "persevere and you will succeed".

#### **December 6, Press Conference for the Laureates in Physiology or Medicine**

From 14:00, a press conference was held at the Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institutet

#### **December 7, Press Conference for the Laureates in Physics, Chemistry and Economic Sciences**

From 09:30, another press conference was held at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)

#### **December 7, Nobel Lectures in Physiology or Medicine**

Following the press conference, on the same day the Nobel Lectures in Physiology or Medicine were held at the Aula Medica, Karolinska Institutet where both laureates presented lectures.

The presentations can be viewed at the links below.

- James P. Allison

"Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Cancer Therapy: New Insights, Opportunities and Prospects for Cures"

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2018/allison/lecture/>

- Tasuku Honjo

"Serendipities of Acquired Immunity"

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2018/honjo/lecture/>



Dr. Romer, 2018 Nobel Memorial Prize Laureate in Economic Sciences, signing a chair at the Nobel Museum

© Nobel Media AB 2018

Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



Prof. Honjo during his lecture

© Nobel Media AB 2018

Photo: Alexander Mahmoud

## Nobel Week 2018

### **December 8, Nobel Lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Economic Sciences**

The Nobel Lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Economic Sciences were held at Aula Magna, Stockholm University.

The presentations can be viewed at the links below.

#### **Physics**

- Arthur Ashkin (due to health issues, René-Jean Essiambre presented at the event)

“Optical Tweezers and their Application to Biological Systems”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2018/ashkin/lecture/>

- Gérard Mourou

“Passion for Extreme Light: For the Greatest Benefit to Human kind”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2018/mourou/lecture/>

- Donna Strickland

“Generating High-Intensity Ultrashort Optical Pulses”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2018/strickland/lecture/>

#### **Chemistry**

- Frances H. Arnold

“Innovation by Evolution: Bringing New Chemistry to Life”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/chemistry/2018/arnold/lecture/>

- George P. Smith

“Phage Display: Simple Evolution in a Petri Dish”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/chemistry/2018/smith/lecture/>

- Sir Gregory P. Winter

“Harnessing Evolution to Make Medicines”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/chemistry/2018/winter/lecture/>

#### **Economic Sciences**

- William D. Nordhaus

“Climate Change: The Ultimate Challenge for Economics”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2018/nordhaus/lecture/>

- Paul M. Romer

“On the Possibility of Progress”

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2018/romer/lecture/>

### **December 8, Celebratory Reception by the Ambassador and his Wife**

At the Grand Hotel in Stockholm, a celebratory reception organized by H.E. the Ambassador of Japan, and Mrs. Hiroki. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Ishida and Igei attended.

At the beginning of the reception, Prof. Honjo made a speech and expressed his gratitude to all the people concerned. All the guests celebrated Prof. Honjo's acceptance of the Nobel Prize.



Photo at the Nobel Lecture in Physics  
Prof. Strickland (left) and Prof. Mourou  
(center)

© Nobel Media AB 2018

Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



Photo at the Celebratory Reception at the  
Grand Hotel



### Nobel Week 2018

#### **December 8, Nobel Prize Concert**

During the evening, the Nobel Prize Concert was held at the Stockholm Concert Hall. Among the Nobel laureates Prof. Honjo attended this concert that was open to the public and available to be streamed online.

#### **December 9, Nobel Week Dialogue 2018**

This year's Nobel Week Dialogue was held at the Stockholm City Conference Centre. At this dialogue, the theme was "Water Matters" where prominent invited researchers and experts, including past Nobel laureates, discussed the possibilities to enhance the interest of society and promote science and technology. It was open to the public, and we could see the discussion of the experts up close, and the general participants could participate in the discussion through the question. Experts, including eight past winners, were on the podium.

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Ishida and Igei attended. From the JSPS Headquarters, Dr. Susumu Satomi, President; Mr. Noriyoshi Masuko, Governing Director of Headquarters for International Affairs; Mr. Rikutarō Hamada, Head of International Research Cooperation Division I; and other staff attended.

The event can be viewed online through the Nobel Prize Homepage:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/events/nobel-week-dialogue/stockholm-2018/>

#### **December 9, Celebratory Reception organized by KVA and the Nobel Foundation**

At 18:00, a celebratory reception hosted by the KVA and the Nobel Foundation was held at the Nordic Museum in Stockholm. In addition to Prof. Honjo, other laureates from this year also participated. The reception is held annually in celebration of the Nobel Prize, and from JSPS, President Satomi and Director Tsumoto attended the event.



© Nobel Media AB



Photo at the Nobel Week Dialogue

### Nobel Week 2018

#### **December 10, Nobel Prize Award Ceremony**

At 16:30, the Nobel Prize Ceremony was held at the Concert Hall in Stockholm City. From JSPS, President Satomi was invited and participated at the event. Following the entrance of the Swedish Royal Family and this year's Nobel Prize laureates, the award ceremony was opened with a speech by the Nobel Foundation President, Carl-Henrik Heldin.

At the ceremony, the Nobel Prizes of the Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine and Economic Sciences were handed over with honorable speech from King Carl XVI Gustaf.

In the award ceremony for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Prof. Klas Kärre, Karolinska Institutet, Nobel Committee member, supplied with a honorable speech before the award was handed over by King Carl XVI Gustaf. The ceremony was closed with the Swedish Anthem played by the orchestra.



Prof. Honjo receiving the prize

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



Prof. Honjo

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



All the Nobel Laureates

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



### Nobel Week 2018

#### **December 10, Nobel Banquet**

The Nobel Banquet was held at 18:30 at the Blue Hall in Stockholm City Hall. From JSPS, President Satomi was invited and participated at the event. The banquet was opened by King Carl XVI Gustaf with a toast and followed by musical performance. Prof. Honjo expressed his gratitude during his speech towards the Nobel Foundation, his co-researchers and to Alfred Nobel himself who founded the Nobel Prize. He also expressed his expectations for the future of cancer immunotherapy.



Photo at the Nobel Banquet

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Dan Lepp



Photo at the Nobel Banquet

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Alexander Mahmoud



Prof. Honjo during his speech

© Nobel Media AB 2018 Photo: Dan Lepp

## AKA-JSPS Seminar in Helsinki with Dr. Kitamoto

On November 6, 2018, AKA-JSPS Seminar was held in Helsinki, Finland. This seminar was the first collaborated seminar between JSPS Stockholm Office and Academy of Finland (AKA). The theme of this event was Digital Humanities (DIGIHUM). Dr. Asanobu Kitamoto, Director of Center for Open Data in the Humanities (CODH), Research Organization of Information and Systems, Japan, gave a keynote lecture, and several research progresses in the program were presented by Finnish researchers. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida joined. Deputy Director Yoshihara gave a presentation about JSPS activities and programs. Approximately 50 people attended and it was a great opportunity for academic interaction in this field.

A report from the event written by Dr. Kitamoto can be read on page 16.



Photo during the event



Group photo of the participants

## Kyushu-Chalmers International Chemistry Symposium

On November 7, 2018, Kyushu-Chalmers International Chemistry Symposium was held at Chalmers University of Technology. This symposium series is jointly organized by Kyushu University in Japan and Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden. Nine speakers from both universities gave lectures. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto joined and made a presentation about JSPS activities and programs. Approximately 40 researchers attended, and it became a great opportunity to expand continued interaction between both universities.

## KTH's Global Day in Stockholm

On November 8, 2018, an event called Global Day was held at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and International Program Associate Igei participated in the event. This event introduced the university and the exchange programs they have for studying abroad.

Not only Swedish students but also international students from many countries participated in the event. International Program Associate Igei also set up the materials and introduced each program, including the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan, and responded to questions from participants.



Photo at the event



## KVVS Meeting in Gothenburg

On November 12, 2018, a seminar celebrating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Sweden diplomatic relations was held at the Museum of Gothenburg sponsored by Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg (KVVS).

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto participated. After opening greetings from Dr. Erland Hjelmquist, President of KVVS; H.E. Ambassador Hiroki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden; Mr. Claes Grill, Honorary Consul-General of Japan at Gothenburg, Director Tsumoto presented the activities and fundings of JSPS.

Following four presentations by Swedish lecturers, the keynote speech was given by Prof. Tomoko Nakanishi, the University of Tokyo. It was a great celebration for the 150th anniversary, but also provided opportunities for the future academic exchange between the two countries.



From left: H.E. Ambassador Hiroki; Prof. Nakanishi, Director Tsumoto; and Mr. Grill

## Sweden-Japan Joint Seminar in Stockholm

On November 13, 2018, a joint seminar co-hosted by Karolinska Institutet (KI), the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT), and JSPS Stockholm Office, was held at the Nobel Forum in KI. The theme for this seminar was “Malaria Research: Innovations and Global Malaria Eradication.” From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Igei participated.

This seminar was officially certified as part of the events of the 150th anniversary of Japan-Sweden diplomatic relations. Vice President, Karin Dahlman Wright, KI, began the seminar with opening remarks. Following the speech, there were in total 16 researchers presenting at the event.

After the completion of the first part of the event Deputy Director Yoshihara gave a presentation about JSPS Stockholm Office activities.

After the seminar, the reception was held with a toast by H.E. Ambassador Hiroki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, and the participants further continued discussing the topic at the event.



KI Vice President Wright during the opening remarks

## **The 2nd Activity Seminar for FY2018 organized by JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden with Prof. Nakanishi**

On November 15-16, 2018, the 2nd Activity Seminar for FY2018 organized by JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) was held at Gothenburg University. The seminar was titled “Environmental Radioactivity: Experience from Japan and Sweden”.

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and International Program Associate Igei participated. On the first day, the organizer Prof. Eva Forssell-Aronsson, the University of Gothenburg, opened the event and Director Tsumoto followed with a presentation about JSPS Stockholm Office activities. Following this, Prof. Nakanishi, a distinguished lecturer from the University of Tokyo, who was invited from Japan, gave a lecture titled “Agricultural aspects of radio-contamination induced by Fukushima nuclear accident-wide range of the studies by the Agricultural Dept. Univ. of Tokyo”, and many questions were asked by the participants. After that, there were lectures from a total of seven Japanese and Swedish researchers, and at the reception held subsequently, participants were able to interact with each other.

On the second day, there were lectures from nine researchers in Sweden, and at the end, the whole discussion was held to summarize the seminar, and the seminar was closed. It was a good opportunity to share the efforts and research results of the Japan-Sweden collaboration in the field.

A report from the event written by Prof. Forssell-Aronsson can be read on page 17.



Prof. Nakanishi presenting at the event

## **Sweden-Japan Aerospace Conference in Tokyo**

On November 20, 2018, the Sweden-Japan Aerospace Conference in Tokyo was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

This event was held as part of the Sweden-Japan Conference: “Sparking Interest in Science through Space”, in Stockholm on October 8. As well as at the event in Stockholm, the keynote speeches from Dr. Chiaki Mukai, Astronaut and Senior Advisor to the Director General of JAXA; and Dr. Christer Fuglesang, Astronaut and Professor at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology; were given together with presentations from representatives from both governmental space agencies.

A lecture was given on the active cooperation between the two countries in the aerospace field. On this occasion, an agreement of cooperation of the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), which is the largest ever international solar system exploration plan and led by the European Space Agency (ESA), was signed by Mr. Peter Egardt, Chairman of the board to SNSA; and Dr. Hiroshi Yamakawa, President of JAXA.

## **Global Science Campus Program by Keio University at KI**

On November 22, 2018, the Global Science Campus sponsored by Keio University held an event regarding their international program titled “Medical Science Interdisciplinary Learning by: Half-learning, Half-teaching”.

From JSPS Stockholm Office, International Program Associate Ishida participated and introduced the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office. Around 20 Japanese and Swedish high school students participated in the program, and the participants of the two countries deepened their exchanges. The Global Science Campus is one of the next-generation human resources development projects by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Keio University has adopted this project since FY2018.



Mr. Ishida presenting at the event

## JANET Forum 2018 in Lyon

On November 22-23, 2018, the JANET Forum 2018 was jointly organized by Tohoku University and National Institute of Applied Sciences of Lyon (INSA Lyon), France, and was held at INSA Lyon. The theme of this event was “Networking and Collaboration for the Future.”

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and International Program Associate Igei attended. It has been held since FY2016 and this is the third event. JANET (Japan Academic Network in Europe) was established in 2015 to promote networks among Japanese universities, which have liaison offices in Europe. At the beginning, on behalf of the organizer, Dr. Eric Maurincomme, President of INSA Lyon; and Dr. Hideo Ohno, President of Tohoku University, gave the opening remarks, followed by presentations about their activities from the academic institutions of Japan and France, and the question and answer session was held.

Other JSPS overseas offices from: London, Bonn, and Strasbourg also participated in the forum, and JSPS's mission was explained by Dr. Nobuo Ueno, Director of JSPS London Office. In addition, after the end of the forum, a general meeting was held by participating universities. Approximately 100 participants gathered and it was a successful event for networking.

The next JANET Forum 2019 will be held in London by the organization of Osaka University and University College London (UCL).



Photo at the event

## KI-Japan Seminar at KI

On November 28, 2018, KI-Japan Seminar was held at the Nobel Forum of KI, and Office Assistant Ishii and Granström participated in the event. This event was held for the purpose of promoting collaboration between Japan and KI, and the presentations of research activities by researchers and students who were mainly involved with Japan were given. JSPS Stockholm Office also set up booths and materials to introduce our activities and programs and to respond to questions from participants. Several students who were specifically planning to study in Japan also visited the booth to ask and talk about researching in Japan.

At the closing of the event, H.E. Ambassador Hiroki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, expressed a greeting that he hoped for further development of the academic exchange between Japan and Sweden.



Mr. Granström conducting outreach activities at the event



## Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY2018



On November 28, 2018, in honor of the contribution to the exchange between Japan and Sweden for many years, the promotion of mutual understanding between the two countries, and the strengthening of relations, H.E. Ambassador Hiroki awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's commendation for FY2018 to Professor Emeritus Kazuhiko Kawasaki at a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence. Kawasaki was given the award for its long-standing efforts that have helped promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Sweden.

From left: H.E. Ambassador Hiroki and Professor Emeritus Kawasaki

Source: [https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/aktivitet\\_181128.html](https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/aktivitet_181128.html)

## Meeting for Exchanging Opinions between President Satomi and Young Japanese Researchers in Sweden

On December 10, 2018, Dr. Satomi, President; and Mr. Masuko, Governing Director of Headquarters for International Affairs, from JSPS Head Office; Director Tsumoto and Deputy Director Yoshihara from JSPS Stockholm Office participated together with young Japanese researchers in Sweden at a discussion meeting held at JSPS Stockholm Office. After the opening remarks from President Satomi, Mr. Masuko and Director Tsumoto presented JSPS and JSPS Stockholm Office activities respectively.

After that, there was a self-introduction of the researchers, followed by a lively exchange of opinions on the differences in the research environment and the mechanisms of young researcher development in Japan and Sweden. The participants also discussed what they have learned by coming to Sweden.



During the meeting

## Japanese Government Draft Budget for FY2019

On January 18, 2019, the Japanese government made a cabinet decision on the FY2019 draft budget. The total general accounting was approximately 101.46 trillion yen and exceeded for the first time the mark of 100 trillion yen. The main highlights of the budget include:

- The proposed budget for science and technology was approximately 1.34 trillion yen, which was increased by 1.5% from FY 2018.
- 237.2 billion yen and 2.3 billion yen were allocated in the “Kakenhi” Program (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research) and Overseas Research Fellowships respectively, which were an increase of 3.8% and 12.2% respectively compared to FY 2018.
- As these increased budget allocation in “Kakenhi” Program, Overseas Research Fellowships and newly proposed program to support Japanese researchers enhance international competitiveness, one of main focuses of this budget was enhancing support for young researchers.

For more information and going into details regarding the draft budget for FY2019, please check the documents provided by the Japanese Government: <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2019/01.pdf>

## New Year Reception held at the Ambassador's Residence in Sweden

On January 24, 2019, a New Year celebration was held at the Ambassador's residence, inviting Swedish people with a deep relationship with Japan and Japanese residing in Sweden.

From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto; Deputy Director Yoshihara; International Program Associate Igei and Ishida; and Office Assistant Granström participated. At the beginning, the greetings from H.E. Ambassador Hiroki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, and Ms. Yoko Kaneko, Chairperson of the Japanese Association in Stockholm, acknowledged the cooperation of the 150th anniversary of Sweden-Japan diplomatic relations, and hoped for further deepening exchanges between the two countries.

Then, the sake barrel opening ceremony, called "kagami-biraki" in Japanese, was held, and a toast was made by Mr. Kenichi Oteki, Chairman of Japan Businessmen's Club.

At the venue, the new year's dishes, such as "osechi" and Japanese sake were served and the participants deepened their friendship in a cozy atmosphere.



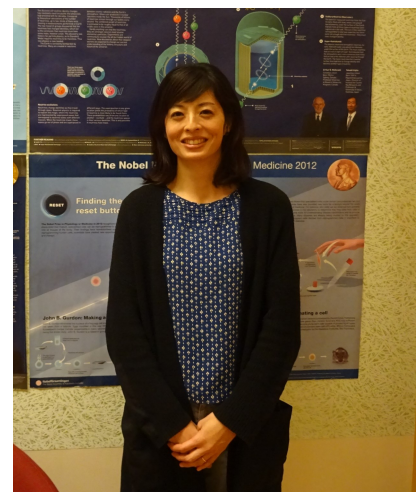
Photo at the event

## Welcoming New Staff at JSPS Stockholm Office

Hej!

My name is Tomoko and I recently joined the JSPS Stockholm Office as an assistant. I am originally from Tokyo but living in Stockholm for more than 6 years since I came to Sweden as a master's student in social science. In addition to work, I'm enjoying parenting and love photography. I'm looking forward to seeing you somewhere in the near future!

Tomoko Svedlund Ishii  
Office Assistant



Office Assistant Ishii

## AKA-JSPS Seminar in Helsinki

**Asanobu Kitamoto**, Director, Center for Open Data in the Humanities (CODH),  
Joint Support-Center for Data Science Research, Research Organization of Information and Systems

On November 6, 2018, I gave a presentation titled “Non-Textual Digital Humanities – Understanding Visual and Spatial Data for the Study of Asian Culture” at the AKA-JSPS Seminar held in Helsinki. Although conventional digital humanities have focused on text, I focused on its ability to classify/recognize non-textual materials like pictures, photographs and maps, and find new knowledge from the imagery.

In particular, audience showed their interests in one of my researches, which is a mobile application called “Memory Graph”, focusing on old photographs. Comparing old photos taken about 100 years ago to the recent ones taken in the same location, I could demonstrate how both sceneries are coinciding with each other. At this time, I arrived in Helsinki on the day before the seminar and conducted fieldwork, seeking places where old photos were taken. I was also able to collect valuable data for my future research through this fieldwork.

Regarding the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), which is a rapidly spreading technology for image distribution, I presented our team’s latest research result “IIIF Curation Platform”. Although Finland is one of the countries on the forefront of conducting researches related to digital infrastructure for cultural archives, it doesn’t seem that IIIF has been adopted as much as I expected. However, I believed it was a timely topic because some in the audience knew enough about the word “IIIF”.

Following that, I introduced “Digital Silk Road” as an example of digital humanities research. Focusing on “Digital criticism”, which is a methodology for interpreting non-textual materials like maps and photos, I explained its originality with the case of rediscovery of Silk Road ruins.

Then I went on to an introduction of the research project related to Japanese classical literature. This project was established for publishing open data and developing research on open data in the field of classical literature created by “NIJL-NW project,” driven by National Institute of Japanese Literature. My introduction included detection of different editions in the Bukan Complete Collection by image processing, and research for recognition of cursive scripts with machine learning. Having pursued not a conventional humanities method that humankind interpret historical materials but a new method for it with machine; these researches aim to develop ways to extract information from big data unsupported by a conventional humanities method, and use the information for practical purposes. Finish researchers appeared to show great interests in such approaches.

At the end of my lecture, I introduced historical big data as my future research plan. While large amount of classical literatures and documents are stored in Japan, these are not often used as big data because of the difficulty of



Dr. Kitamoto during his presentation

recognizing Kuzushiji characters. Researchers have been seeking a method for using the past world’s information written in these materials. A workflow of data structuring is a key for it. It is important to establish a workflow that could support a series of processes; converting characters in digital images of classical literatures and documents into text, marking these up, and structuring table formatted data. Actually, a project for organizing old big data into data structures is currently ongoing in Europe, named the “Time Machine” project, and I conclude that my historical big data research could collaborate with Europe.

During my Helsinki stay, I also visited Helsinki Centre for Digital Humanities (HELDIG) in the University of Helsinki on the day before the seminar, and I talked with Prof. Eero Hyvönen, Director of HELDIG. We exchanged our opinions about several research activities in HELDIG, especially current situation of data integration with the Semantic Web, as well as research environment in Finland. I am considering our future collaboration based on this visit.

For further information on my presentation, please refer to the following each project’s website.

### **ROIS-DS**

(Center for Open Data in the Humanities / CODH)

<http://codh.rois.ac.jp/>

### **Digital Silk Road**

<http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/>

### **Memory Graph**

<https://mp.ex.nii.ac.jp/>



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

Eva Forssell-Aronsson, Professor, Department of Radiation Physics, University of Gothenburg

On November 15-16, 2018, the Activity Seminar “Environmental Radioactivity: Experience from Japan and Sweden” was held at Wallenberg Conference Centre at University of Gothenburg (GU). The seminar attracted totally about 55 persons from Japan and Sweden, but also from Finland, Denmark, Poland, and Spain. The seminar was arranged by JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC), JSPS Stockholm Office, GU and Chalmers University of Technology.

After the opening of the seminar by Professors Eva Forssell-Aronsson (Dept of Radiation Physics at GU) and Imre Pázsit (Dept of Physics at Chalmers), Director Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto introduced the JSPS programs and activities.

Then, Professor Tomoko Nakanishi (Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo) presented the latest results from agricultural aspects of radioactivity contamination induced by Fukushima nuclear accident. She presented the content of radioactive caesium in soil, air, dust, seawater, and a large number of food types in Japan. The main results were that radioactive caesium was 1) found to bind strongly to soil and did not migrate, 2) not readily dissolved in water flowing from the mountain regions, 3) were not easily absorbed by crop plants when sufficient potassium was applied, and 4) taken up into trees through the bark, and not from the root. Prof. Nakanishi also demonstrated the importance of measuring on edible parts of plants and not entire plants, and differences compared with the situation after the Chernobyl nuclear accident due to differences in ecosystems.

Professor Sören Mattsson (Medical Radiation Physics Malmö, Lund University) presented aspects from a Swedish perspective of the nuclear accidents in Chernobyl and Fukushima. Lessons learnt were that 1) The society has methods to manage and reduce the radiological health problems for the public and for employees, but 2) cannot handle the contamination of the landscape and 3) is concerned with non-correct information about radiation risks, which in turn affects the credibility of the authorities



Prof. Forssell-Aronsson during the opening presentation

and causes unnecessary concern to the public. Moreover, 4) the society cannot cope with the persistent mental and social problems created by evacuation, lost social contacts, fear and anxiety for health.

Thereafter several presentations related to Fukushima and Chernobyl accidents were given. The development of the car-borne on-line real-time environmental monitoring system KURAMA and its operation in Fukushima was presented by Dr. Minoru Tanigaki (Institute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear Science, Kyoto University). Isak Holmerin (Stockholm University) showed the results from a project about trophic transfer of radiocaesium to benthic fish off Fukushima through a detailed analysis of benthic food webs, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Tokyo. Observations in Finland regarding deposited and airborne radioactivity from Chernobyl and Fukushima were summarized by Jussi Paatero (Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland). Prof. Elis Holm (Universities in Lund and Gothenburg) presented measurement data on radioactive caesium and polonium in seals from the Baltic Sea and the Swedish West Coast during 1995-2002.



University of Gothenburg

Source: [https://www.gu.se/english/about\\_the\\_university](https://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university)

(Continues on the next page)

The last two presentations on the first day dealt with the results from a study using 50 years of radionuclide discharges (radioactive cobalt, strontium and caesium) from Studsvik Nuclear Facility to understand coastal zone sedimentation processes on the Swedish coast (Per Törnquist, Linköping University), and polonium-210 in diet samples and different foodstuffs consumed by the population of South-West of Spain (Prof. Rafael García-Tenorio, University of Seville, Spain) and showed somewhat similar levels as in Japan due to the high amount of seafood in the diet.

The rest of the evening was spent at the Dept of Radiation Physics with Japanese food and interaction and discussions between participants.

The second day of the seminar started with a presentation of the use of “Citizen science”, i.e. science where the public is involved, by Cecilia Gustavsson (Uppsala University). In the project 250 secondary school classes (pupils of age 13-16) participate by collecting, preparing and performing preliminary analyses of mushrooms, soil samples and animal droppings during school time. Then the radioactive caesium concentration was measured in the samples by researchers.

Pål Andersson (Swedish Radiation Safety Authority) presented data on cesium-137 in Swedish wild boar, and discussed the new situation in Sweden caused by an expanding wild boar populations many years after the Chernobyl accident, and Elis Holm showed results on polonium-210 and cesium-137 levels in lynx, wolverine and wolves.

Prof. Rafael García-Tenorio introduced the use of Low-Energy Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (LEAMS) in

Radioecology, especially for longer-lived radionuclides, and gave examples from the Spanish-Swedish collaboration.

Then four presentations dealt with natural radionuclides in Swedish pit lakes (Juan Mantero, GU), Swedish food products (Francisco Piñero-García, GU), Polish food products (Dagmara Strumińska-Parulska, University of Gdańsk, Poland), and in Nordic Seafood Consumption (Francisco Piñero-García). Britta Langen (GU) then showed various radiobiological effects in rodents exposed to low levels of iodine-131.

The last scientific talk was given by Jan Johansson Barck-Holst (Swedish Radiation Safety Authority) and included lessons learned from the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP in 2011 from a Swedish perspective.

After a session with final discussions the seminar was closed. The event was successful in interesting presentations and allowing researchers to exchange ideas and networking in this important subject.

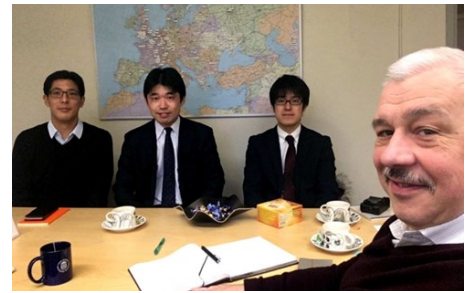


Photo of the reception during the event

### 2018.11.6 Meeting with Mr. Okabe at the Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki

Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida visited the Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki and met with Mr. Takehiro Okabe, Deputy Director at the Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki; and Prof. Michael Gasik, Vice-Chair of Alumni Club in Finland (ACF). During the meeting they discussed cooperation for the upcoming All Alumni Meeting and exchanged views on future collaboration.

They also confirmed that they will share information with each other to promote academic exchanges between Japan and Finland in order to hold events and further strengthen cooperation.



Mr. Okabe, Deputy Director Yoshihara, Mr. Ishida, and Prof. Gasik

### 2018.11.6 Meeting with Ms. Ellmén at the Academy of Finland in Helsinki

Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida visited the Academy of Finland (AKA) and met with Science Adviser Ulla Ellmén. In the discussion about cooperation in the activities of ACF, they exchanged opinions on the contents of cooperation.

They also shared information on the status of the bilateral exchange projects in cooperation with JSPS and AKA.



Deputy Director Yoshihara, Ms. Ellmén, and Mr. Ishida

### 2018.11.7 Meeting with Ms. Saito at the Embassy of Japan in Finland

Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida visited the Embassy of Japan in Finland and met with 1st Secretary Ms. Masako Saito. The visit was also attended by Prof. Gasik and Mr. Okabe. After requesting the cooperation of the Embassy in the All Alumni Meeting to be held in Finland this year, they exchanged views on the event.

They also confirmed that they will share information with each other to promote academic exchanges between Japan and Finland in order to hold events and further strengthen cooperation.



Deputy Director Yoshihara, Ms. Saito, Prof. Gasik, and Mr. Okabe



### **2018.11.13 Visit by Dr. Sonia Coelho Sutton, Lund University; and Prof. Leif Kirsebom, Uppsala University**

Dr. Sonia Coelho Sutton, Senior International Coordinator of Lund University; and Prof. Leif Kirsebom, Uppsala University, visited JSPS Stockholm Office. Lund University is the coordinator of the Swedish Universities of the MIRAI Project. While they have been in cooperation with each other since FY2016 through the project, it is set to end in FY2018. They discussed further developments of cooperation.



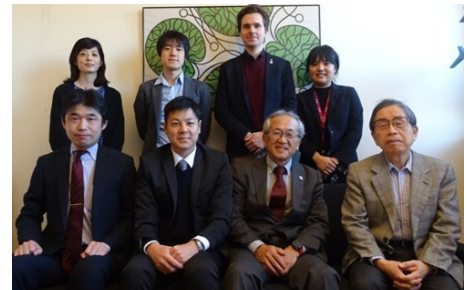
Deputy Director Yoshihara, Dr. Sutton, Director Tsumoto, and Prof. Kirsebom

### **2018.11.27 Visit by Dr. Yasuhiro Iye, Executive Director, JSPS**

Dr. Iye, Executive Director of JSPS; and Mr. Kazuyoshi Izumi, International Policy Planning Division, visited JSPS Stockholm Office.

They visited our office as part of their visit to Sweden to attend the KVA-JSPS seminar, which was organized in collaboration with KVA, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, and JSPS Stockholm Office the previous day.

After receiving gratitude towards the seminar, they shared the activities and exchanged opinions on the cooperation with each other and future issues.



Front row, left to right: Deputy Director Yoshihara, Mr. Izumi, Dr. Iye, and Director Tsumoto  
Back row, left to right: Ms. Ishii, Mr. Ishida, Mr. Granström, and Ms. Igei

### **2018.12.10 Meeting for Exchanging Opinions between President Satomi and Young Japanese Researchers in Sweden**

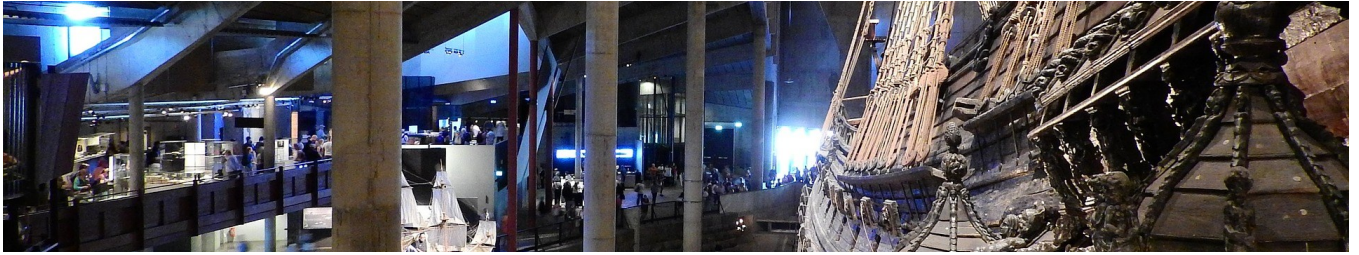
Dr. Satomi, President of JSPS; and Mr. Masuko, Governing Director, Headquarters for International Affairs at JSPS; Director Tsumoto and Deputy Director Yoshihara participated together with young Japanese researchers in Sweden in a discussion meeting held at JSPS Stockholm Office. Participants expressed their opinions on the different research environments between the two countries, and what they have learned by coming to Sweden.



Front row, left to right: Mr. Hamada, Deputy Director Yoshihara, Director Tsumoto, President Satomi, and Governing Director Masuko

## Learning from History: Vasa Syndrome

Viktor Granström, Office Assistant, JSPS Stockholm Office



Visiting the Vasa Museum for the first time as a kid, I was flabbergasted by the sheer size of the vessel and that something this large can be preserved for so many years. You may know about the ship if you have already visited Stockholm as it is one of the main museum attractions. I often have chosen to guide fellow foreign students from Japan around Stockholm; always making sure to go check out Vasa ship. Some wider knowledge surrounding the ship is that since the ship is still very fragile, and thus visitors are not allowed to go onto the ship except for special guests. These include: Presidents, Kings and Nobel Prize laureates. Laureates are invited to board the ship and this usually happens during the Nobel Week.

The ship is one of a kind as a preservation from the era; it marked the height of the Swedish Empire, but it also marked the beginning of the end of the Empire in a ironically symbolic way when it met with disaster on August 10, 1628; right in front of the Swedish population watching in fear as their symbol of power, especially ordered to be built by the King, sank in front of them in Stockholm harbour.

You can learn a lot from history, and while archaeologists and historians are still studying the ship to this day, there is also an unexpected lesson to be learned from this incident that is one of the lesser known things surrounding the ship. This is the term “Vasa Syndrome.” Let’s first talk about the background of the ship.

As to why the Vasa ship sank, historians and archaeologists have come to consensus after studying the ship and it is clear; the ship sank in the shallow waters of Stockholm harbour when water started flooding through the gun portals on the side of the ship. The ship then laid there at a depth of 32 meters. The other parts of the story as to what lead up to the sinking, and who or what was to blame, have been discussed among historians for a long time. There are many theories based on scarce recordings before and after the event. Meetings after the tragic sinking with various individuals including the engineers of the ship have been recorded but no one was to blame for the whole incident. But rather it was a flow of several changes in the ship’s design and direction that lead up to the disaster. The ship was insisted by the King, Gustavus Adolphus (King of

Sweden 1611-1632), to hurry the completion as it was intended to be the flagship and pride of the fleet while also demanding more from the engineers to include larger and more guns to the ship. The safety margins at the time were far below anything acceptable today, and combining this with the fact that the ship was built with two full gun decks; a shipbuilding principle that was still poorly understood at the time, and because of this, the ship was not wide enough for the amount of guns demanded by the King. The ship was also intentionally designed to have a high superstructure, to be used not only as a firing platform but also as a way of display of power. This among many things, such as there was not enough counter ballast inside the ship, were examples of why the demands of the King did not align with the engineers original vision of the ship. Again, as not all meetings have been recorded, there are many theories. On the management side, there might have been communication issues, especially between the King and the engineers. You could argue the demands of the King should have been turned down, or you could argue that the King should not have been meddling in too many of the minor details, especially since the King was abroad waging war. Stability tests showed the ship was unstable, and this might not have been properly communicated, or otherwise possibly ignored.

The lessons learned from this ship surely helped create greater ships on the engineering side. But the disaster of the Vasa has been interpreted by management experts and created a term for this: the so called “Vasa Syndrome”.

The consensus among the experts is that the disaster was caused by problems with communication, goal setting, and adaptability; and has been used as an example for business managers on learning from previous mistakes. The term is used in both management and marketing circles referring to the problems mentioned. The idea with the term is that it refers to the need to stay realistic in terms of strategy and project management (the Vasa was a failed project as such) and for organizations to keep their goals matched to their capabilities.

The irony in this case is, however; if the Vasa did not sink on that day, we would not have a ship like this almost fully preserved 390 years later.

### **Banner photo:**

The ship Vasa inside the Vasa Museum in Stockholm  
Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/en/vasa-museet-museum-ship-warship-1008504/>)

**Sources:** Vasa syndrome: insights from a 17th-century new-product disaster

<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/1292393>

Vasa Museum

<https://www.vasamuseet.se/en/vasa-history>

### To be Established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN)

In this section we have a message from **Dr. Anders Øverby**, Chair of the to be established Alumni Club in Norway (ACN). He will talk about the ACN and its activities as they work towards becoming an official JSPS Alumni Club.

#### Overview of ACN

- **Establishment:** To be established
- **Number of Members:** 60
- **Chair:** Anders Øverby, Project Leader, Center of Education in Kongsvinger, Norway
- **Main Activities:** Norway-Japan Academic Network, Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering, Board Meeting
- **Rules and Regulations:** Stipulated in the Articles of the Club



Dr. Anders Øverby

#### **Q: Could you briefly introduce yourself and tell us about your relationship with JSPS?**

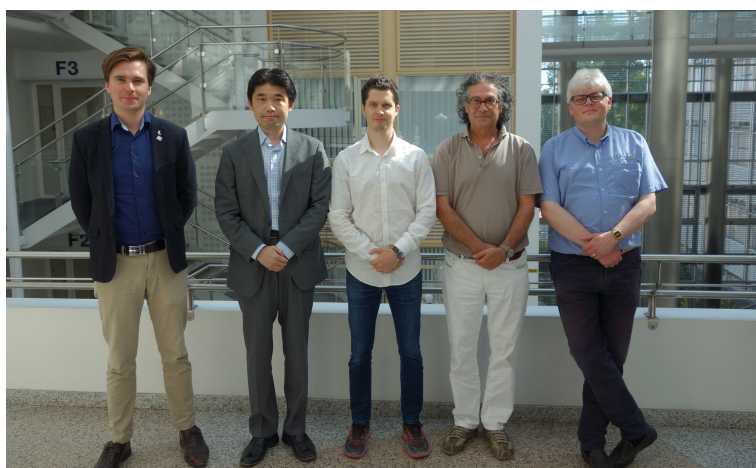
A: I have a scientific background in life sciences and research experience from industrial biotechnology, plant biology and cancer cell biology. The latter is my current field of interest, and I have been working on gastric cancer in the last years focusing on prevention through exposure to dietary phytochemicals. I spent the last year of my PhD at Kitasato University School of Pharmacy in Tokyo. It was a success both at work and socially, so I felt that I wanted to stay longer. Therefore, I applied for a 2-year post doctor-grant through the relationship between Research Council of Norway (RCN) and JSPS. I then stayed in Tokyo for further two years before I returned to Norway in 2016. Building bridges between Norway and Japan is important, and through establishment of JSPS Alumni Club in Norway for JSPS alumni and I think we have a good platform for making new projects, friendships and bonds between our countries.

#### **Q: As our previous newsletter mentioned (English Edition Vol.33, Summer 2018), you had a board meeting for the first time and have started alumni club activities on a voluntary basis since last summer. Tell us about the current situation.**

A: The current status is that we have more than 50 members and inspiring board and great support from JSPS in Japan and Sweden, RCN and NorAlumni Club. Last summer we organized a kick-off event, and the level of eagerness and positive spirit is big in our club. Now we look forward to organizing our next event as well as planning the fiscal year we have ahead of us.

#### **Q: How many people are currently in the alumni club and what kind of members are you expecting to join?**

A: We are currently 60 members, 35 regular and 25 associate members. The club welcomes anyone with JSPS alumni with a connection to Norway, regardless of any nationality. We also welcome researchers and other relevant scientific staff with connections to Norway-Japan collaborations to our club.



ACN Board Members and JSPS Staff



**Q: What is the most challenging thing for you regarding working on alumni club activities?**

A: The same as working on all the projects I'm involved in: finding sufficient time to accomplish everything I wish for. Since the club is volunteer-based and members (and other interested people) join purely based on their own interest, the atmosphere in the club and at events is very good. Therefore, it is a privilege to work on the alumni club activities.

**Q: As the Chair, how can you contribute to your club?**

A: As the Chair I hope to take part in organizing good events for members and non-members. As a club member, I hope to be able to share my passion for international collaboration and make a good platform where people can generate new projects and friendships. I also hope that other members of the club, and I, may support researchers or research groups in Norway or Japan who seek to establish a network for future collaboration. If I manage to contribute in creating some financial foundation for the club too, I consider the purpose of the Chair fulfilled.

**Q: What kind of other organizations do you expect to collaborate with to promote the alumni club activities, and how?**

A: This is something we are currently mapping, but Norway-Japan in both countries related associations might be of relevance to us. RCN, JSPS Stockholm Office, and NorAlumni Club are already involved in our activities. I also believe in making good relation with embassies, relevant universities and companies. Last but not least, I look forward to getting to know the other Scandinavian Alumni Clubs.

**Q: What do you believe the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway can contribute with that is unique for Norway in comparison to the other Nordic Alumni Clubs?**

A: Difficult to say. We aim to create a club that will serve those who represent or wish to represent Norway-Japan collaboration on a research level. Our club is still small compared to, for instance, the Alumni Club in Sweden, but that gives us a chance to create tight bonds among the members at the same time. Our club can learn from clubs which are bigger and possess more experience than we do. As long as we manage to build an arena that helps bridge the gap between Norway/Scandinavia and Japan, we have reached a level of activity I hope to maintain for a long time.

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

A: Are you interested in what the Alumni Club in Norway is planning to do, interested in a collaboration with someone in Japan, wish to get in touch with people who worked as a researcher in Japan, or simply interested in learning more about Norway-Japan collaboration and research life in Japan? Our club can offer a place to meet people to answer your questions, ideas and collaboration dreams.

If you wish to join the club or have any other inquiries about our club or academic life in Japan, please don't hesitate to contact us. The world is changing at a speed that we have never seen before. Digital transformation, welfare technology and sustainability are examples of interdisciplinary fields that we need to comprehend in order to meet the future demands. I believe that working across sectors, institutions and countries is the only way to face the future. Japan has very much to offer in this regard. Join us, take a leap and contribute to building the collaborations the future needs!



Dr. Øverby presenting at Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering 2019



Group photo of the participants from the Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering 2019

In this section we ask Japanese researchers to present their experience and research in their respective country. For this issue we asked Dr. Go Yoshizawa, a researcher at the Arbeidsforskningsinstituttet (AFI), OsloMet—Oslo Metropolitan University, to present his research and experiences in Norway.

## Dr. Go Yoshizawa

**Title/Position:** Research Fellow

**Affiliation:** AFI

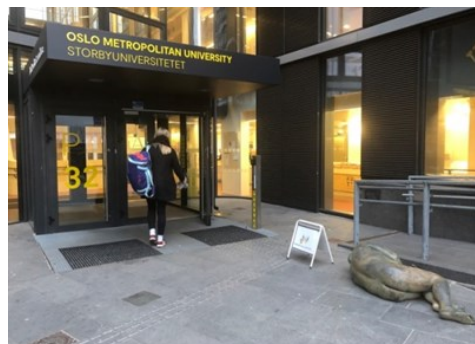


Years	Degree	Institute	Location
2008	Ph.D.	SPRU, University of Sussex	Sussex, UK
2003	M.S.	SPRU, University of Sussex	Sussex, UK
1999	M.S.	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
1996	B.S.	Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University	Kanagawa, Japan

Years	Position	Institute	Location
2018.9 - present	Research Fellow	AFI, Oslo Metropolitan University	Oslo, Norway
2012.4 - 2018.8	Associate Professor	Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University	Osaka, Japan
2011.10 - 2012.3	Project Lecturer	Institute of Research in Humanities, Kyoto University	Kyoto, Japan
2011.5 - 2011.9	Project Lecturer	Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI), University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
2009.4 - 2011.4	Project Lecturer	Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
2008.5 - 2009.3	Project Researcher	Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
1999.4 - 2001.9	Researcher	Research Institute, Mitsui Knowledge Industry (MKI) Co., Ltd.	Tokyo, Japan

**Q: What are you currently researching in Norway?**

A: Emerging technologies like AI and genomics have a great potential to transform our life and work but general citizens have limited opportunities to deliberate on and participate in the governance. Taking several noteworthy cases of citizen science, makerspace, arts, gamification and tourism in Europe, my research project explores how a wide range of experts, stakeholders and citizens can have a positive attitude to the governance of research and innovation.



Picture of the “sleeping man” statue in front of the university

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

A: After studying physics as undergraduate, I had conducted research on science and technology policy at a national level. Given that national policy is just one of the forms of governance, my research focus was then turned towards more local and community-based participatory activities in order to make the scientific community and the society better for the future.

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

A: A Norwegian colleague who was leading a research group in collaboration with European and Norwegian researchers in my research area invited me to jointly submit a proposal for EU Marie-Curie Individual Fellowship, which was successfully accepted. While my research institute has a long tradition of action-oriented research and organization studies, its affiliation newly became as a university. The dynamics and interdisciplinary were very stimulating and attractive to me.



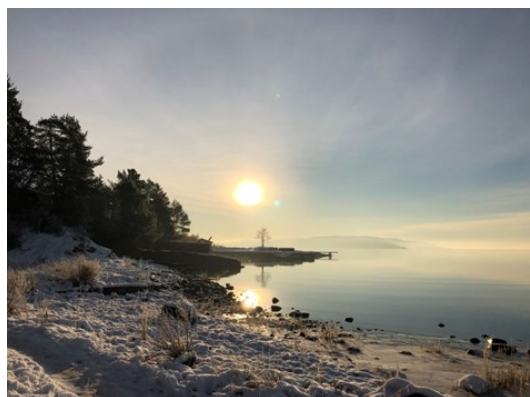
Christmas party at the research facility

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

A: At the initial stage of my individual research project, it was challenging to acquire an interdisciplinary and practical knowledge by expanding the network from my institute and university to other Norwegian and European researchers and experts. Related to this, it would be critical how to effectively allocate short business hours to desk work and out-of-office work.

**Q: What is your impression of the research environment in Norway?**

A: Institutions and environments in which researchers can concentrate on their own research are well established with a keen awareness of responsible research in terms of diversity, openness and ethics. As Norwegian research organisations are flat and composed of independent researchers, you would not be able to find research agendas and partners, secure research funds and expand the scope of research unless you actively promote your excellence and competence. Personal ties than titles and affiliations can be a more relevant factor in relationship building.













Picture at Noon in Bygdøy (From the Oslo Southwestern Peninsula)

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

A: Although probably less well-known to Japanese researchers, Norway is traditionally good at ocean and environmental sciences and has now become keen to create innovation converging information and computer technologies into medical and life sciences. While researchers from Norway and many other countries potentially have a strong interest in research frontiers and original research topics in Japan, it would be a great opportunity to try completely new things here in Norway by taking full advantage of your knowledge and experience in Japan. Norwegian researchers are fluent in English, but you will be more welcomed if you start learning a bit of Norwegian. *Lykke til!*



Details are given in the indicated URLs

	Title	URL
 Sweden	Investigator Backs Tuition Fees for Foreign Students	<a href="http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2018110304291612">http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2018110304291612</a>
 Sweden	New Country Report for Japan	<a href="https://www.stint.se/en/2018/11/07/new-country-report-for-japan/">https://www.stint.se/en/2018/11/07/new-country-report-for-japan/</a>
 Finland	Vision for 2030 Commits to Investment in HE and R&D	<a href="https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=2017102709445683">https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=2017102709445683</a>
 Finland	100 Years of Finnish-Japanese Friendship	<a href="http://www.finland.or.jp/public/default.aspx?contentid=376477&amp;nodeid=41206&amp;culture=en-US">http://www.finland.or.jp/public/default.aspx?contentid=376477&amp;nodeid=41206&amp;culture=en-US</a>
 Denmark	Government Takes Steps to Lure and Retain Foreign Talent	<a href="http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181020055700202">http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181020055700202</a>
 Norway	Mixed Response to Minister's Call for More Study Abroad	<a href="http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181029163520535">http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181029163520535</a>
 Lithuania	The 1st Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue	<a href="https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000093.html">https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000093.html</a>
 Iceland	Northern Lights Research Centre Opened in North Iceland	<a href="https://now.guidetoiceland.is/2018/10/19/news/northern-lights-research-centre-opened-in-north-iceland/">https://now.guidetoiceland.is/2018/10/19/news/northern-lights-research-centre-opened-in-north-iceland/</a>
 Japan	Enhancing University Partnerships in soft Power Drive	<a href="http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181108100611418">http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20181108100611418</a>
 Japan	In Search of New Partners, Japan's Top Research Institute Opens Base in Brussels	<a href="https://sciencebusiness.net/news/search-new-partners-japans-top-research-institute-opens-base-brussels">https://sciencebusiness.net/news/search-new-partners-japans-top-research-institute-opens-base-brussels</a>

## JSPS Program Information

### **Bilateral Programs**

This project aims to create a sustainable network of bilateral research teams that have developed individual researcher exchanges, and aims to establish a sustainable network of bilateral research teams with excellent researchers (including young researchers) from universities in Japan and researchers from other countries. We will support expenses required for collaborative joint research and seminar implementation.

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/semina/jrss.html> (Japanese)

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/index.html> (English)

### **Core-to-Core Program**

This project establishes a sustainable cooperative relationship that links research institutions in Japan and countries around the world on research topics that are recognized as leading and internationally important in Japan or research tasks that contribute to solving various problems in the region. We aim to train young researchers who will be the core of the next generation as well as establishing core research and exchange bases in the world level or region in this field.

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-c2c/index.html> (Japanese)

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/index.html> (English)

### **Fellowship Programs for Overseas Researchers**

This project invites outstanding researchers from other countries and provides opportunities for joint researchers, discussion and exchange of opinions with researchers in Japan, thereby supporting the progress of international research. This is a project aimed at promoting academic research in Japan and advancing internationalization through research cooperation with international researchers.

Application guidelines for FY2019 are being published on the JSPS homepage.

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-inv/index.html> (Japanese)

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html> (English)

### **Call for Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard, Authority's Nomination for FY2019)**

**Deadline:** February 28, 2019

For further information about the application:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/event/postdoctoral-fellowship-for-research-in-japan-standard-2019/>

### **Call for Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term, Authority's Nomination for FY2019)**

**Deadline:** February 28, 2019

For further information about the application:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/event/postdoctoral-fellowship-for-research-in-japan-short-term-2019/>

## Upcoming Seminars and Symposia

### **All Alumni Meeting in Finland**

**Date and time:** March 1, 2019, 15:00 - 20:00

**Venue:** University of Helsinki

**Organizers:** JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF), Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki and the JSPS Stockholm Office

**Supporter:** the Embassy of Japan in Finland

Registration in advance is required by February 21, 2019. To register for the event, please visit here:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/event/all-alumni-meeting-organized-by-jsps-alumni-club-in-finland/>



### **Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA)**

**Date and time:** March 15, 2019, 13:45 - 17:45

**Venue:** Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

**Organizers:** JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD), the Embassy of Japan in Denmark, Tokai University European Center and the JSPS Stockholm Office

Registration in advance is required by March 7, 2019. To register for the event, please visit here:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/event/japan-alumni-and-researcher-assembly-2019-in-denmark/>

### **Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2019**

**Date and time:** March 17, 2019, 10:30 - 17:00

**Venue:** Pacifico Yokohama Conference Center, Japan

**Organizers:** JSPS, Nobel Media

**Theme:** "The Age to Come"

Registration has opened from February 5, 2019. The event is open to the public and free of charge. However, registration from the website is required. To register for the event, please visit here:

[http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-nobel\\_prize\\_dialogue/index.html](http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-nobel_prize_dialogue/index.html)

## **Subscribe to JSPS Stockholm Newsletter**

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter by e-mail, please sign up for the newsletter on [our website](#).

Our newsletters are also available on [our website](#) for reading online.

**JSPS Stockholm Newsletter (English Edition) Vol. 35**

**Published on:** February 15, 2019

**Editor-in-Chief:** Takao Yoshihara

**Edited by:** Viktor Granström

**Address:** JSPS Stockholm Office, Retzius Väg 3, 171 65 Solna, Sweden

**Tel:** +46(0)8-524 84561

**Website:** <http://www.jsps-sto.com/> **E-mail:** [jsps-sto@jsps-sto.com](mailto:jsps-sto@jsps-sto.com)

**Facebook:** [JSPS Stockholm Office](#)

Cover Photo:



Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/>)