

# Minutes – The 4th Pan Nordic Alumni Club Chair Meeting

## 1. Date, time, and venue:

August 22, 2019, 15:00-16:00, Skype

## 2. Participants:

(From Alumni Clubs)

Dr. Ville Syrjälä, Chair of JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF)

Prof. Carl Winsløw, Chair of JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD)

Dr. Anders Øverby, Chair of the Alumni Club in Norway (ACN)

\*Dr. Elin Palm, Chair of the Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) was absent.

(From JSPS Stockholm Office)

Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto (Director)

Mr. Takao Yoshihara (Deputy Director)

Mr. Kazuyoshi Izumi (International Program Associate)

Ms. Tomoko Svedlund Ishii (Liaison Officer)

## 3. Summary:

The JSPS Pan Nordic Alumni Club Chair Meeting was initiated in FY2016. It is held annually in order to create a platform for the chairs of the Nordic Alumni Clubs to meet and exchange information. Through this meeting, possibilities to hold joint efforts and collaboration open up, while making the most of the respective club's activities. This year was the fourth time for the meeting to be held, and the first time for ACN to join.

## 4. Minutes:

### **1. (1) Opening remarks**

Director Tsumoto opened the meeting.

### **(2) Brief self-introduction of new members**

Dr. Øverby introduced himself and ACN's path to its official establishment in this April.

### **(3) Explanation of the agenda**

Dr. Syrjälä, the chair of the meeting, briefly explained the agenda.

### **2. (1) Reports from the Alumni Club Chairs on the Alumni Clubs' activities**

The club chairs presented their respective club's activities during FY2018 and FY2019 based on their annual activity plans.

For reference: Document 1.

Deputy Director Yoshihara, on behalf of the Chair of SAC who was absent, informed of this year's two Activity Seminars, one of which will be held at Linköping University on September 24-25, and another at KI on October 28.

Dr. Syrjälä informed that ACF plans to have an Activity Seminar in Turku on October 24-25. He also shared information on the special event to be held at Academy of Finland (AKA) in Helsinki on December 12: the ACF's 10-year anniversary ceremony and All Alumni Meeting.

Regarding ACD's plan, Prof. Winsløw informed about an Activity Seminar to be held in Copenhagen on October 8, and the Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA) to be held on March 6, 2020.

Dr. Øverby informed about ACN's plan to hold an inaugural ceremony of the establishment of the club at the Research Council of Norway (RCN) on October 17, and RCN-JSPS joint seminar on the same day at the same venue. An Activity Seminar will be held at RCN on November 19. He explained that ACN is working well with triangle cooperation with RCN and JSPS.

### **3. How to activate the seminars**

Deputy Director Yoshihara firstly explained the reference Document 2, which is a summary of the current situation on how JSPS and board members promote and manage seminars in general.

Based on this, the chairs exchanged their opinions. The main points of their discussion are as below:

#### *To increase the number of applications*

- It will be good to provide more information on how seminars are organized and what is needed to be done with financial expenses, as people may not be aware of practical matters. It will be good to inform more about it at each seminar.
- It is not easy to increase the number of applications as only regular members are eligible to apply for Activity Seminars. The numbers of regular members are limited, especially for the small clubs such as ACD and ACN. Therefore, it is important to increase the number of regular members, however the problem is that it is difficult to identify the JSPS fellows.
- In case of Finland, there are more than 100 club members, though most of the regular members are not so active. It is important to activate members.
- Finding an appropriate lecturer in a specific field who has connection with Japan makes it difficult to apply.

#### *To increase the number of participants*

- It is not easy to increase the number of participants because Activity Seminars are often specialized in a particular field of research, which means most of the participants are from the specific field and not from alumni clubs.
- One possible way to increase the participants for the seminars is to encourage more cross-border participation.

### **4. Exchange of opinions on how to enhance the Alumni Clubs' activities in the future**

Deputy Director Yoshihara explained the reference Document 3, which is a summary of possible efforts on how to enhance the Alumni Clubs' activities.

Based on this, the chairs exchanged their opinions. The main points of their discussion are as below:

- Holding a joint seminar, for example a seminar jointly organized by SAC and ACF, and inviting a member of other clubs to a seminar as a one of speakers are interesting ideas from another JSPS club, which we can also consider in the Nordic region.
- There are some active associate members, and it is worth considering how to make good use of active associate members in order to further enhance overall activities.

## **5. Future schedule and management of JSPS Pan Nordic Alumni Club Chair Meeting**

Deputy Director Yoshihara explained the reference Document 4 and reminded that it would be Denmark's turn next to chair the meeting.

## **6. Other matters**

Dr. Øverby suggested to hold a Pan Nordic Alumni Club Chair Meeting more often, for example twice a year, as this meeting is the only opportunity where the clubs can communicate with other clubs.

The meeting was closed by Dr. Syrjälä at 16:00.