

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – 日本学術振興会
Alumni Club in Norway
Newsletter

vol. 2. (January 10th, 2020)

Inaugural Ceremony for the Establishment of the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway



On October 17, 2019, the inaugural ceremony for the establishment of JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN) was held at The Research Council of Norway (RCN). We commemorated the establishment of the club with distinguished guests and confirmed the collaboration with related institutions for the future success of the club.

The ceremony was held because the JSPS ACN was formally approved from JSPS-Head Office. The Chair of ACN Dr. Anders Øverby from Center of Education in Kongsvinger delivered the congratulatory speech. The session chair was board member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander Karl Rothkopf from Stavanger University.

After that H.E. Ambassador Masahiro Tauchi from the Embassy of Japan in Norway, Mr. Yoshinori Masuko from JSPS, Senior Managing Director, Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto who is the head of JSPS Stockholm Office, Executive Director Dr. Kristin Danielsen from RCN, Ms. Else Kathrine Nesomoen from Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) also delivered the speech for the celebration.

Finally, the video message was shown from board member Prof. Dr. Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen in UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

Gratulerer til ACN !

ACN 設立おめでとうございます！

Congratulation to the ACN !

JSPS-RCN Joint Seminar

“The Ocean Brings Us Together !”



In connection with the inauguration of the ACN, an academic seminar about collaborative marine research was organized in the RCN.

The seminar was jointly organized by ACN, RCN, Diku and JSPS Stockholm Office.

It was an excellent opportunity for people working to enhance academic collaboration between Norway and Japan to get together and to enhance a productive partnership.

The opening remarks were delivered by the JSPS Stockholm Office Director Dr. Tsumoto and Executive Director Dr. Danielsen from RCN.

After the remarks, Dr. Danielsen and Mr. Takao Yoshihara introduced the activity of RCN and JSPS, respectively.

And then Mr. Vidar Helgesen from Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered the speech about Sustainable Ocean Economy.

Starting the Ocean lecture, the first speaker was Dr. Takashi Kikuchi from Institute of Arctic Climate and Environment Research (IACA) from Japan. He presented Japanese Arctic research and how it is important to keep the international collaboration. They developed the board game of Arctic science for children.

Second speaker was Prof. Peter M. Haugen from Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR). He mentioned, relating to The United Nation proclamation Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which actions are required for us from scientific and political point of view.

The third speaker Prof. Kerim Hestnes Nisancioglu from University of Bergen and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research talked about century-scale effects of increased atmospheric CO₂, presented the Greenland ice cores.

The final speaker, Prof. Paul Wassmann from UiT The Arctic University of Norway presented Arctic Ocean ecosystem and conceptual modelling for pan-Arctic perspective.

The ACN Activity Seminar FY2019 “Science-based innovation: connecting research and business for a sustainable future”



On November 19, 2019, the ACN Activity Seminar FY2019 on the theme of “Science-based innovation: connecting research and business for a sustainable future” was held at RCN. Speakers and participants were actively engaged in the discussion and it was a great opportunity for an academic interaction.

The first speaker Dr. Munetaka Shimizu, Hokkaido University, was invited from Japan. He was talking about the definition of the growth of the salmon comparing farming and wild ones. He mentioned from physiology to innovation. The chart in the presentation meant biology meets economy, sustainable society.

Second speaker was Mr. Christian Moen from Atilika Inc. He presented how AI is helpful to learn Japanese language. One of their developments is kuromoji. It is morphological analyser for Japanese texts. Also japanese.io is a helpful dictionary to Japanese language learners. It is used at Japanese learning in University of Oslo.

The third speaker was Assoc. Prof. Olena Zavorotynska from University of Stavanger. She presented how the scientific results of hydrogen storage can be applied to the economy. When hydrogen gas is used as the fuel of the car, much volume is required. She talked about recent progress in functional hydrides for the energy related applications and the efforts, such as superconductivity.

The final speaker was Assoc. Prof. Maria Åkesson from Halmstad University. She presented how the digital technology, digital markets, and digital ecosystems have been changed, likewise from newspaper to smartphone. Those changes were strongly related to the readers. They are affected with the innovation in technology and economy. It was interesting she said the most paper readers are Swedish or Japanese.

JSPS Norway – Japan bilateral symposium: “Combination of Theoretical/Computational Studies and Experiments toward Porous Coordination Polymers / Metal Organic Frameworks”



On August 22, 2019 the joint seminar ‘Combination of Theoretical/Computational Studies and Experiments toward Porous Coordination Polymers (PCPs) / Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs)’ was organized at University of Oslo. The number of attendants were around 40, mainly from the department of natural sciences.

The speakers from Japan were Prof. Susumu Kitagawa (Kyoto U), Prof. Shigeyoshi Sakaki (Kyoto U), Prof. Masahiro Ehara (Institute for Molecular Science (IMS)), and Asst. Prof. Shinichiro Otake(Kyoto U).

The PCPs/MOFs are very useful to adsorb the gases such as CO₂. Nowadays we face the climate crisis. One of the reasons is considered the greenhouse phenomena due to CO₂ emissions. One of the potentially powerful tool to reduce those gases is PCPs/MOFs. Moreover, PCPs/MOFs have received a lot of attentions from researchers in Norway, Japan, the U.S., and China. In the joint symposium, the first-class researchers presented studies of PCPs/MOFs, investigated by theoretical and experimental methods.

On July 18th, a workshop on ‘Theoretical and Computational Chemistry of Complex Systems’ was organized at IMS in Japan.

These symposia were supported by the Joint Research Projects and Seminars in Bilateral Programs by JSPS and Hylleraas sentret at University of Oslo in Norway and Institute for Molecular Science in Japan. (<https://www.jspso.go.jp/english/e-bilat/index.html>)

Hei fra JSPS Alumni Klubbmedlemmer !

同窓会会員からこんにちは！



Michiko ATSUMI : Editor in Chief of ACN newsletter.

The profession is quantum chemistry. Defended co-tutelle Ph.D in France (chimie theorique) and Japan (博士 (理学)). During Ph.D student as la Boursiere du Gouvernement Français in Universite Louis Pasteur, worked at Freie Universität Berlin in Germany, Czech academy of science, and some other European Universities. After defended Ph.D, studied at Helsingin yliosto as JSPS fellow and Academy of Finland fellow. Worked at Universitetet i Oslo as yggdrassil fellow by RCN, and Uppsala Universitet as Swedish Institute fellow. Got married and moved back to Norway. Now researcher at Hylleraas centre in Universitetet i Oslo. Now I am working on some projects of Porous Coordination Polymers (PCPs) and Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs) with the theoretical and experimental groups from Kyoto University (京都大学) and Universitetet i Oslo. PCPs/MOFs have been paid much attention in decades because the gas such as CO₂ are absorbed. PCPs/MOFs have received a lot of attentions from researchers in Norway, Japan, the U.S., and China.

Selected paper: Molecular Single-Bond Covalent Radii for Elements 1–118. <https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.200800987>. Translated to many languages in wikipedia 'covalent radii'. On 2015, Two papers were awarded as Most cited Top 20 in 20 years in *Chem. Eur. J.*.

Editorial Note

Det var hyggelig å begynne på ACN-seremonien. Seminaret ved første gang var veldig bra. Temaet – Let's go to Ocean - passer veldig godt mellom norsk og japansk for vitenskapelig promotering. Det andre seminaret viste mer mangfold - hvor mye vi kan bidra til det 'sustainable society' erklært av United Nations. Folk kunne bli kjent med nye mennesker og bygge nye nettverk gjennom ACN-aktivitetene.

Nå er det vinter. Nordmenn sier 'hyggelig :)' hvor som helst. Hva er japansk 'hyggelig :)' om vinteren? Hva er din opplevelse mellom norsk og japansk vinter?

Now it's winter. Norwegians say 'nice :)' anywhere. What is Japanese 'nice :)' in winter? What is your experience between Norwegian and Japanese winter?

JSPS ノルウェー同窓会が設立され今まで以上に日諾の科学的人的振興の機会が増えると思います。次はどんなセミナーでしょう？あなたの研究でしょうか。楽しみです(M.A)