



## *Establishment of the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN)*



Contents	Page
Prologue	2
Special Features	4
News	6
Reports	13
Column	23
Message from the Alumni Club Members	24
Reports from Japanese Researchers in the Nordic/Baltic Nations	26
Academic Information	28
Notices	31

## Global synchrony of our world

Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director, JSPS Stockholm Office

When I came to Stockholm about three years ago, I was very surprised to see so many sushi bars and sushi shops along many streets. Soon thereafter I learned that cooks are not always Japanese so that sushi in Stockholm is often more or less different from sushi in Japan. Nevertheless almost everybody not only in Stockholm but also in many cities in Europe or even all over the world knows what sushi looks or tastes like. Thus sushi is now globally well-known and favorite to many people. The globalization of Japan-originated materials, goods, things or concepts is not limited to foods but also seen in sports and cultures. Traditionally martial arts such as judo, kendo, karate and aikido have been known in Europe including Sweden for many years. In Stockholm we see rooms or halls with signboards showing that one of these martial arts is practiced there. Recently, the so-called “popculture” or “subculture” of Japan such as manga, anime, yuru-chara, and cosplay are also well-known in Sweden in particular among young people. If you are not familiar with these Japanese words, please see Wikipedia in English (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manga>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anime>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuru-chara>, and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosplay>, respectively). Very recently I also found an advertisement in subway stations in Stockholm showing the word “Ninja” together with pictures dressed in the ninja style (see also <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja>). I guess these trends of the usage of Japanese words may not be limited to Stockholm but also globally seen in many cities all over the world.

### **Movement of School Strike for Climate**

Recently the movement “School Strike for Climate” initiated by Ms. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish high-school student, very rapidly spread all over the world ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta\\_Thunberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg)). As well known,

this movement was triggered by the sole action of Ms. Thunberg on August 20, 2018. It is really surprising to me how fast and how extensively the idea and concept of this movement have proliferated in our planet. According to a web article (<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2019/02/16/uk-students-join-mobilizations-on-climate-change/>), over one million students in 112 countries across the world joined the global climate strike on March 16, 2019. As mentioned above, it is really impressive that such a large-scale movement synchronously took place all over the world only several months since Ms. Thunberg acted alone in Stockholm. I am aware that there are some arguments against the action of boycotts or “strike” of lectures in schools by high school students. In this essay I will not go into details for or against such arguments. It just impressed and moved me that so many people living on this planet behave almost synchronously irrespective of geometrical distance, i.e., the globalization of concerns, opinions and actions regarding the climate issue prevails across the world these days.

### **Many Other Global Issues**

In addition to the climate issue there are many global issues that we are facing these days, such as pollutions of air, drink water and soil, the diffusion of microplastics in the sea, the loss of forests in the continents and so on. These problems would result in serious and irreversible damages to people living on our planet, and would not be solved or reduced without global actions tackling the issues. Some people are pessimistic about these issues. I think, however, there is a gleam of hope. The advancement of science and technology would find a remedy for reducing or solving those global problems. I hope that science and technology could play such a role for the future of mankind.



Nature conservation (<https://pixabay.com/sv/illustrations/naturv%C3%A5rdsansvar-v%C3%A4rlden-h%C3%A4nder-480985/>)

### Welcome new staff members!



Ms. Yoshinaka and Mr. Izumi

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#### **Mr. Kazuyoshi Izumi, International Program Associate**

My name is Kazuyoshi Izumi, basically from Tokyo University of Science. I started working at the JSPS Stockholm Office this April. I look forward to interacting with people in the Nordic/Baltic countries including Sweden, and I will do my best to support researchers and international collaborations through my work. I hope you and I can build a long-lasting partnership.

#### **Ms. Mayu Yoshinaka, International Program Associate**

Hej. I am Mayu Yoshinaka. I am basically an employee of Kyoto University and transferred to the JSPS Stockholm Office in April 2019. I like beautiful towns, kind people, and internationality in Sweden. I would like to learn plans and strategies for internationalization of research institutions during my stay. I am looking forward to working with you. Tack!



### Establishment of the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN)

On April 12, 2019, the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN) has been officially approved as the 19th JSPS Alumni Association by JSPS headquarters. ACN has been active towards the establishment, where Dr. Anders Øverby has been the driving force as the Chair of the club since 2017. In 2018, ACN has started its activities as an organization with members who joined voluntarily. In February 2019, “Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering” was organized as ACN’s own event. These devoted and enthusiastic activities have been highly esteemed, which led to its official establishment.

ACN is consisted of five board members and approximately 60 members, including regular and associate members. Currently the club is preparing for its first academic seminar to be held in October 2019. In this newsletter, we asked the Chair Dr. Øverby to give a message for us.

### Message from the Chair of ACN



Chair: Anders Øverby

The establishment of the club was initiated after Director Tsumoto’s presentation about the need for an Alumni Club in Norway at the JSPS Meeting which was held at the Research Council of Norway (RCN) in January 2017. Director Tsumoto showed the accomplishments from Sweden, Finland and Denmark, and I felt it was important to take action in order to gather the Norwegian-Japanese research community in Norway too. After contacting JSPS Stockholm Office, they provided significant support and assistance in establishing and promoting the club. Our first struggle was in fact to gather enough members in order to apply to JSPS headquarters in Tokyo. Once we found enough members, we had to appoint a preliminary board for the club. This task proved to be much easier as all requested club members happily accepted the task. It was a let-down for us when I had to wait and work on a voluntary basis for a while instead of being recognized immediately after applying to the headquarters in spring of 2018, but we kept on going and looked forward. During 2018 we held our kick-off event and the first board meeting (a so-called preparatory board meeting), and planned an event that was held in February 2019.

Following those activities, JSPS acknowledged us as one of their alumni clubs and officially accepted our application. Along the way, there has been so much enthusiasm, positivism and great contributions from board and other members of the club, and this is essentially what I wish the identity of the club to be colored with. I wish for the club to be an arena where researchers with the same interest in working across the Norwegian-Japanese axis can meet, establish new connections, discuss future collaborations and enjoy a good social time with friends and colleagues.

Now that the club has become official, it will also become easier for the members to contribute with higher commitment than before, and I think the network effects from that will be interesting to follow. The club collaborates with both RCN and Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) as well as JSPS (especially Stockholm Office branch). We have already worked on the idea of organizing joint seminars, something I hope we will be able to do on a yearly basis in the future. In addition to that we will organize a so-called Activity Seminar every year, where board and regular members of the club can apply to be the organizer on behalf of the club, and propose a topic and schedule of the event. Last but not least, we wish to continue to be an important part of the jointly organized Norway-Japan Academic Network Seminar held annually. With that said, I wish to pay my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the club’s establishment and activities so far. I hope that the result is in accordance with everyone’s expectations, and that we manage to create a productive and friendly community for scientists interested in bridging the gaps between Norway and Japan.



## Board Members of ACN



Chair

**Anders Øverby**

Project Leader of Centre of Education in Kongsvinger



Vice-Chair

**Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen**

Professor of UiT The Arctic University of Norway



Board member

**Bruno Laeng**

Professor of University of Oslo



Board member

**CJ Beegle-Krause**

Senior Research Scientist of SINTEF Ocean



Board member

**Yuka Kitayama**

Associate Professor of Osaka University

### Upcoming Events

May 1 - June 30, 2019: Call for Alumni Club Activity Seminar Applications FY2019 for ACN

October 17, 2019: - ACN Establishment Ceremony  
- Joint Seminar with JSPS, RCN and Diku

January or February 2020: Norway-Japan Academic Network

For further information on ACN, please visit the link below:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/alumni-club-3/alumni-club-in-norway/>



During the preparatory board meeting



During the 1st Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering

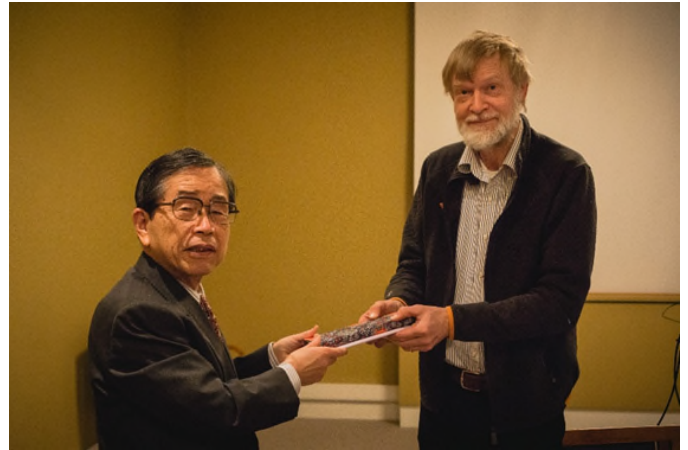
## SAC Joint Board Meeting and General Assembly FY2018

On February 1, 2019, the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) held a joint Board Meeting and General Assembly at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) before the 7th Sweden-Japan Academic Network. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and Office Assistant Ishii attended.

The board members discussed the applications of the SAC Activity Seminar FY2019. Following the board meeting, alumni club members were invited to join the General Assembly where the Chair Prof. Göran Thor reported the alumni club's activities during the FY2018. Prof. Thor then presented the preliminary activity plan for FY2019. This was followed by electing the new Chair, Assist. Prof. Elin Palm, Linköping University, and three board members: Prof. Helena L. Filipsson, Lund University; Assoc. Prof. Johan Eriksson, Uppsala University; and Dr. Püren Güler, Örebro University. Prof. Imre Pázsit, Chalmers University of Technology, was elected the Vice-Chair as well. Lastly, Director Tsumoto and other attendees expressed a deep gratitude to board members who have resigned from their position, including Prof. Thor, Prof. Lars Öhrström, Chalmers University of Technology, and Dr. Thomas Lennerfors, Uppsala University.



Group photo after the General Assembly



Prof. Thor received a commemorative gift from Director Tsumoto



Chair  
Assist. Prof. Palm



Photo: Erik Thor

Board Member  
Prof. Filipsson



Board Member  
Assoc. Prof. Eriksson



Board Member  
Dr. Güler

## The 7th Sweden-Japan Academic Network

On February 1, 2019, the 7th Sweden-Japan Academic Network was jointly organized by the KVA, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, and JSPS Stockholm Office. This event was held at the Beijer Hall of KVA. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Ishida and Office Assistant Ishii participated.

Opening remarks were given by Prof. Dan Larhammar, President of the KVA, followed by an introduction of JSPS activities by Director Tsumoto.

The first lecture was given by Prof. Thor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, as well as the Chair of SAC, titled “What do lichens tell us about the environment—The example of the Tokyo Imperial Palace Grounds”. Prof. Thor’s detailed report of the event can be found on page 13.

The second lecture was given by Dr. Mieko Kono, Swedish Museum of Natural History, titled “To be or not to be a lichen? Using genomics to interpret lifestyles in fungi”.

The lectures were followed by a reception and H.E. Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki’s speech, where he offered a toast.



Prof. Thor during his lecture



Dr. Kono during her lecture

## The 3rd Norway-Japan Academic Network

On February 6, 2019, the Norway-Japan Academic Network was jointly organized for the third time by RCN and JSPS Stockholm Office. The event was held at RCN, located in Oslo, Norway. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Igei participated.

Director Tsumoto gave opening remarks and an overview of JSPS activities, followed by a presentation on RCN’s activities by Ms. Julie Christiansen, Senior Adviser of International Division of RCN. Presentation of the Diku’s internationalization activities were given by Mr. Arne Haugen, Senior Adviser. Mr. Takenari Yamamori, Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Norway informed about the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships.

The symposium’s first lecture titled “International relations in the Arctic: A short Arctic tour of political science” was given by Assoc. Prof. Fujio Ohnishi, Hokkaido University. Assoc. Prof. Ohnishi’s report can be found on page 14. The second lecture was given by Prof. Ivar Rønnestad, University of Bergen, titled “Building a Norway-Japan Partnership for Excellent Education and Research in Aquaculture”. The third lecture was given by Assoc. Prof. Alexander Karl Rothkopf, University of Stavanger, titled “From Japan to Norway and onwards to the Big Bang”. Lastly, Dr. Øverby, Project Leader of Centre of Education in Kongsvinger introduced the activities of the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway.

The seminar was concluded with a reception where participants could enjoy social gathering.



Prof. Rønnestad during his lecture



Assoc. Prof. Karl Rothkopf during his lecture



Participants at the reception



## Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering FY2018

On February 6, 2019, Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering was jointly organized by the to be established ACN and the RCN at RCN in Oslo. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Igei joined.

Opening remarks were given by the Chair Dr. Øverby, Project Leader of Centre of Education in Kongsvinger, followed by a presentation of JSPS activities by Deputy Director Yoshihara. This event was consisted of two sessions: career talks and match-making session. The first lecture of career talks was given by Dr. Go Yoshizawa, Research fellow at Oslo Metropolitan University, titled “Public engagement for what? A light in the darkness”.

The second lecture was titled “Being interdisciplinary myself, in a multidisciplinary environment: My experiences as an eHealth-researcher in Norway and Japan”, and presented by Dr. Naoe Tatara, former Postdoctoral fellow at Oslo Metropolitan University. Dr. Tatara’s detailed report of the event can be found on page 15. Lastly, Dr. Kenichi Matsuoka, Senior Research Scientist at the Norwegian Polar Institute, gave a presentation titled “Hunting the Oldest Ice on the earth: ongoing Japan-Norway collaboration in Antarctica”. At the match-making session, participants were organized in groups based on research fields of interests, and discussed possibilities for future collaboration.



During the lecture



Group photo with participants

## ACF Board Meeting FY2018

On March 1, 2019, the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) held a Board Meeting at the University of Helsinki before the All Alumni Meeting. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Deputy Director Yoshihara and Office Assistant Ishii attended.

The Chair Dr. Ville Syrjälä reported the alumni club’s activities during the FY2018, and presented the preliminary activity plan for FY2019. The board members approved new member applications to ACF during 2018, and Prof. Kristiina Jokinen, former Chair of ACF, and Senior Researcher at AIST AI Research Center, to be an honorary member. They also discussed the applications of ACF Activity Seminar FY2019, and the All Alumni Meeting FY2019, which will be held as a special event for celebrating the 10-year anniversary of ACF as well as the 100-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Finland and Japan. It was also approved that all the current board members including Chair Dr. Syrjälä and Vice-Chair Prof. Gasik would stay for another term.

## All Alumni Meeting in Finland FY2018

On March 1, 2019, the All Alumni Meeting was jointly organized by the ACF, Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki and JSPS Stockholm Office at University of Helsinki in Finland. This event was supported by the Embassy of Japan in Finland and recognized as part of its official commemorations for the 100-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Finland and Japan. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Deputy Director Yoshihara and Office Assistant Ishii participated.

Opening remarks and an overview of JSPS activities were given by Deputy Director Yoshihara. Then, Prof. Shinichiro Tabata and Mr. Takehiro Okabe, Director and Deputy Director respectively of Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki presented about their university and activities. Ms. Henna Tanskanen, Cultural Affairs and Public Relations of the Embassy of Japan in Finland, informed about the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships, followed by a presentation on the Academy of Finland by Ms. Ulla Ellmén, Science Adviser, and a presentation on Business Finland by Mr. Reijo Munther, Chief Advisor.

The first lecture was given by Prof. Yasushi Takeda, ETH Zurich/ Hokkaido University, titled “Essential difference between Science and Technology–Practitioner’s view”. The second lecture titled “Artificial bones for tissue regeneration–Multi-disciplinary collaborations between Finland and Japan–” was given by Dr. Miho Nakamura, University of Turku. Please find a report by Dr. Nakamura on page 16. The last lecture was held by Prof. Elina Oksanen, University of Eastern Finland as well as a board member of ACF, titled “Forest trees under climate change –using Big data and hyper spectral imaging in genetic research”.

Closing remarks was given by Dr. Syrjälä, the Chair of ACF, and the seminar was concluded with a reception.



Prof. Takeda during his lecture



Prof. Oksanen during her lecture

## The Japan Week Fair

On March 1, 2019, the Japan Week Fair was held at Stockholm School of Economics (SSE). This fair was organized by Exchange Japan which is a student association composed of SSE, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Hitotsubashi University. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and Office Assistant Granström participated, and JSPS international programs and activities were presented to visitors, along with other organizations and companies.



Visitors at the fair

### ACD General Assembly FY2018

On March 15, 2019, the JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD) held a General Assembly at Technical University of Denmark (DTU) before the Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida attended.

From the Chair Prof. Carl Winsløw, outline of ACD's events during FY2018 was presented, and the activity plan for FY2019 was shared with information on future activities and plans.

At the General Assembly, two new board members were elected and welcomed: Prof. Leila Lo Leggio, University of Copenhagen; and Dr. Mollie Brooks, DTU as Prof. Maher Abou Hachem, DTU and Dr. Eugen Stamate, DTU, who have dedicated since 2014, resigned.



Board Member  
Prof. Lo Leggio



Board Member  
Dr. Brooks

### Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly in Denmark FY2018

On March 15, 2019, the Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly was jointly organized by the Embassy of Japan in Denmark, Tokai University Alumni Association in Denmark, ACD and JSPS Stockholm Office, at DTU. This event was consisted of three sessions: presentations, a panel discussion and a reception. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Ishida attended.

Following the opening remarks by Mr. Yoshifumi Sasatani, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan, and a presentation by Deputy Director Yoshihara from the JSPS Stockholm Office, two keynote lectures were held. Prof. Haruhide Mori, Hokkaido University, held a lecture titled "Development of research on carbohydrate-active enzymes and their application to carbohydrate conversion through Demark-Japan collaboration". Please find a report by Prof. Mori on page 17. Then, Prof. Lo Leggio, University of Copenhagen, held a lecture titled "How can crystallography help understand the function of biomass degrading enzymes?".

A panel discussion titled: "Contribution of academic research, particularly collaboration between Denmark and Japan, for solving global food and environmental challenges and promoting sustainable use of resources" was held with panelists: Prof. Mori, Prof. Lo Leggio, Prof. Birte Svensson (DTU), and Dr. Henrik Gudmundsson (Senior Consultant of CONCITO). Assoc. Prof. Gunhild Borggreen, University of Copenhagen as well as a board member of ACD, served as the moderator.

The event finished with a reception where participants could mingle over food and drinks to celebrate a successful event.



Group photo of all the participants



## Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2019

On March 17, 2019, the Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo was arranged by Nobel Media AB and JSPS for the 4th time in Japan. Nobel Laureates, world-leading scientists, key opinion leaders, policy makers, and other world renowned experts met with students, researchers and general public to discuss “The Age to Come”.

Opening remarks were given by Dr. Susumu Satomi, President of JSPS, Dr. Lars Heikensten, Executive Director of Nobel Foundation, and Mr. Masahiko Shibayama, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and Deputy Director Yoshihara attended.

The event was successful with several inspiring lectures and fascinating panel discussions on topics such as the “Living in an Ageing Society”, “Why do we age?”, “Morbidity and Mortality in the 21st Century” and “What can we say about the future?” with participating Nobel Laureates such as Prof. Tasuku Honjo, Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2018, Prof. Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2009, Prof. Angus Deaton, Laureate in Economic Sciences 2015, Prof. Tim Hunt, Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2001, and many more. The event ended with closing remarks by Ms. Laura Sprechmann, Deputy CEO of Nobel Media AB.

This event can be viewed online here: <https://www.youtube.com/nobeldialogue>



President Satomi, JSPS at the opening ceremony



Prof. Honjo, 2018 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine during the panel discussion



Deputy CEO Sprechmann, Nobel Media AB at the closing ceremony

## KVA Annual Meeting

On March 31, 2019, the KVA Annual Meeting was held at the main hall of Musikaliska in Stockholm. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and Deputy Director Yoshihara were invited and attended.

Opening address was given by Prof. Larhammar, President of KVA, followed by an announcement of Academy's activities in 2018 by Prof. Göran K. Hansson, Secretary General. Subsequently the Göran Gustafsson prize, Gregori Aminoff prize, and Sjöberg prize were awarded to the scientists with outstanding achievements. Following the award ceremony, lectures were given by Prof. Susan Solomon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Prof. Ulf Ellervik, Lund University. The Annual Meeting was followed by a dinner party at the Nordic Museum.



President Larhammar during his opening address



During the award ceremony

## Japanese Researchers Gathering in Sweden

On April 25, 2019, a gathering for Japanese researchers living in Sweden was held at a restaurant in Stockholm. The gathering was organized by First Secretary Akira Suzuki, the Embassy of Japan, and Deputy Director Yoshihara, JSPS Stockholm Office.

The gathering was held for the fifth time, and its purpose was to provide an opportunity to further strengthen the ties between the researchers, as well as welcome those who have newly arrived in Sweden.

After the welcome remarks from Mr. Suzuki and Director Tsumoto, each participant briefly introduced themselves and their field of research. After that, participants could enjoy dinner and casual talk among each other.

The gathering was a success and attended by 27 Japanese researchers/students, and 6 staff members.



Participants introducing themselves



Group photo

## Summer Program Pre-Orientation

On April 26, 2019, the Pre-Orientation for the JSPS Summer Program for this year's participants was held at the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT). STINT is the Swedish nominating authority for the JSPS Summer Program, and the purpose of this event was to inform and prepare the participants for their upcoming research stay in Japan. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Yoshinaka attended.

The Opening remarks were given by Dr. Hans Pohl, Programme Director of STINT, followed by the self-introduction of each participant. Further, Deputy Director Yoshihara gave a presentation of JSPS activities, explained the program's overview and informed necessary preparations prior to travel. Participants from the 2018 JSPS Summer Program gave presentations on their experiences of the program and answered questions. Lastly, Director Tsumoto closed the orientation with words of encouragement. The orientation ended with following lunch where participants could enjoy exchanging information in a relaxed atmosphere.



Group photo

## ACD Board Meeting FY2019

On May 14, 2019, the ACD held a Board Meeting at University of Copenhagen. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Tsumoto and Liaison Officer Ishii attended via Skype.

The Chair, Prof. Winsløw welcomed two new board members, who joined the board from April 2019, and briefly explained overview of the board activities. Activity plan for FY2019 was updated and further discussed forthcoming Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly.



## The 7th Sweden-Japan Academic Network

Göran Thor, Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

On February 1, 2019, I gave a presentation entitled “*What do lichens tell us about the environment – The example of the Tokyo Imperial Palace Grounds*” at the 7th Sweden-Japan Academic Network Seminar at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) in Stockholm.

Lichens are fascinating as we still do not really know how this community of different species is structured. Thus, a lichen is not an organism of its own but is instead a complex community including at least 1-3 species of Basidiomycota (a group of fungi), one, two or more species of Algae (almost always green algae and/or cyanobacteria), numerous species of bacteria and one species of Ascomycota (another group of fungi, giving the name to the lichen). This might be perceived as extremely interesting, but possibly also confusing or even annoying by some. The vernacular naming of lichens is also confusing. In spite of that lichens are not at all closely related to mosses they are frequently sold in shops before Christmas as “mossa” or “vitmossa” in Sweden. In Japanese language, lichens are frequently named “koke” (苔) but this term includes both lichens and mosses. A more correct word for lichens in Japanese is “chii-rui” (地衣類) and a more correct word for mosses is “sentai-rui” (蘚苔類). Lichens are fundamental for humans as they provide many important ecosystem services as biochemical cycles (e.g. nutrient recycling), food and shelter for many species of animals (birds, snails, ants and mites depend on lichens for foraging, shelter and nesting material), they regulate the soil moisture and are important as producing nitrogen used by other species (as trees). Probably because lichens are so complex communities, they are highly sensible to changes in the environment as e.g. air pollution, forestry, agriculture, and they are therefore excellent to use as ecological indicators and to monitor the environment.

The first inventory of the lichen biodiversity in the Tokyo Imperial Palace Grounds, conducted by the National Museum of Nature and Science, which took place during 1995–1996 when I was a post-doctoral fellow at the museum under a scholarship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). I was invited to participate in the lichen inventory and we were allowed to walk around this normally strictly closed area for some days. The second inventory took place in March 2013 and I was again invited to participate and we spent some more days there. The Tokyo Imperial Palace Grounds is located in downtown Tokyo, covers 115 hectares and upheld a rather stable natural environment over a period of several centuries, in spite of frequent fires, earthquakes, and warfare including the devastating air raids of World War II. There are many several-hundred-year old stone walls, constructed mainly for defense. Some of the lichens found are almost certainly correlated with the occurrence of old and unrestored or sensitively restored stonework. It was an odd experience to be in downtown Tokyo and walk around in this empty and peaceful area. A large part is covered by one of the extremely few and old growth deciduous forest in the

Tokyo area. In summer 2013, I was at the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tsukuba under the JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Program to study the collected material from the Imperial Palace. During the inventory in 1995-1996, a total of 57 lichen species were found, of which seven were reported as new to Japan and during the inventory in 2013, a total of 98 lichen species were found of which two additional species were reported as new to Japan. The remarkable increase in lichen diversity from the first to the second inventory is most probably caused by the reduction of air pollution due to new regulations which was introduced in 2003 regarding exhaust emissions from automobiles in and around Tokyo. Lichens therefore give us information on biodiversity, and most probably also on human health, that has benefited from the reduction of air pollution.

If you would like to read more about the lichens in the Tokyo Imperial Palace Grounds, please see the publications below.

Kashiwadani, H. & Thor, G. 1997. Lichens of the Imperial Palace Grounds, Tokyo. I. *Chrysothrix flavovirens* new to Japan. *Journal of Japanese Botany* 72: 89–92.

Kashiwadani, H. & Thor, G. 2000. Lichens of the Imperial Palace Grounds, Tokyo. II. *Memoirs of the National Science Museum [Tokyo]* 34: 171–195.

Kashiwadani, H. & Thor, G. 2001. The Imperial Palace garden – an oasis for lichens. In: *The Imperial Palace. Animals and plants in Fukiage-Gyoen*. Sekaibunka-sha, Tokyo, pp. 223–227. (in Japanese)

Ohmura, Y., Thor, G., Frisch, A., Kashiwadani, H. & Moon, K. H. 2014. Increase of lichen diversity in the Imperial Palace Grounds, Tokyo, Japan. *Memoirs of the National Science Museum, Tokyo* 49: 193–217.



Prof. Thor during his lecture



## The 3rd Norway-Japan Academic Network

Fujio Ohnishi, Associate Professor, Arctic Center, Hokkaido University

The 3rd Norway-Japan Academic Network Seminar was held on February 6, 2019 at the Research Council of Norway (RCN) in Oslo, Norway. Since 2016, this seminar has been jointly organized by the JSPS Stockholm Office and RCN once a year. The aim of the seminar was to promote academic exchange between Norway and Japan. In total, 40 participants joined the seminar, including Japanese researchers based in Norway, JSPS fellows as well as RCN fellows who have studied in Japan. Science programs that are useful for promoting academic exchange between the two countries have been introduced by officers from JSPS, RCN and government officials from the two countries.

I was invited to attend and give a speech on my experience and research at the seminar since I was based at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies in Oslo from September 2018 to March 2019 as a visiting research fellow. This fellowship has been supported by the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (Fostering Joint International Research)).

The seminar started with opening remarks by Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director of the JSPS Stockholm Office. Ms. Julie Christiansen, Senior Adviser to the International Division of the RCN, followed to give a speech about strategies for future research. She addressed that academic collaboration between Norway and Japan is still limited but expects further cooperation. Mr. Arne Haugen, Senior Adviser to the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku), introduced student exchange programs. Mr. Takenari Yamamori from the Embassy of Japan in Norway talked about the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for international students.

As one of the invited speakers, I mentioned my experiences at the Barents Research Institute (2008-2009) funded by the Norwegian Government Scholarship and at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (2018-2019).



Assoc. Prof. Ohnishi during his lecture

I also talked about my current research theme of the Arctic international politics. Prof. Ivar Rønnestad from University of Bergen gave a talk about his previous research experience at Kyoto University as well as his recent research collaborations with other researchers and students. Assoc. Prof. Alexander Karl Rothkopf from University of Stavanger addressed his experience at the University of Tokyo and his research of modern theoretical physics in plain words. Dr. Anders Øverby, who is the Chair of the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway, spoke about his experience of studying in Japan. He also described the contents and historical background of the club together with its recent activities. At the end of the seminar, a panel discussion was held by the four speakers.

Many Japanese visiting research fellows who are based in Norway attended this seminar. It gave me an opportunity to expand my research network, which was a precious moment. I am greatly indebted to the JSPS Stockholm Office and RCN for organizing the seminar and allowing me to join this event.



Assoc. Prof. Ohnishi, Assoc. Prof. Karl Rothkopf, Prof. Rønnestad and Dr. Øverby during the panel discussion

## Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering FY2018

**Naoe Tatara**, Former postdoctoral fellow, Department of Computer Science,  
Faculty of Technology, Art and Design, Oslo Metropolitan University

On the 6 February, 2019, Norway-Japan Alumni and Researcher Gathering FY 2018 was held at Research Council of Norway (RCN) in Oslo, Norway. JSPS Stockholm Office, RCN and the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway organized the event. With a title of “Being interdisciplinary myself, in a multidisciplinary environment: My experiences as an eHealth-researcher in Norway and Japan”, I talked about my experiences with research projects and the environments as one of the three speakers of career talks.

Despite I have seen terms like multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary frequently, I felt that they are sometimes used interchangeably. According to several sources that researched definition of these terms, “multidisciplinary” is defined as “people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge by staying within the boundary of the field”, while “interdisciplinary” is defined as “integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole, using a real synthesis of approaches”. In addition, “cross-disciplinary” is “viewing one discipline from the perspective of another”, and “transdisciplinary” is “creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives and in so doing transcends each of their traditional boundaries”.

eHealth (or e-health) is a shortened form of electronic health and defined as “all kinds of information and communication technology used for supporting health care and promoting a sense of well-being”. It seems that eHealth falls simply within the field of computer science with health care as its application area. However, in practice research about eHealth requires knowledge and methods from many other disciplines than computer science. Moreover, eHealth as a research topic attracts researchers from diverse disciplines. Actually, I have seen that most of the researchers working with research about eHealth had different disciplinary backgrounds.

I, myself, majored in mechanical engineering as an undergraduate and continued studying at the same university to take a master’s degree. Mechanical engineering deals with an extremely broad range of topics, and there is a vast variety of application areas. During the final year of the bachelor course and the two years of master’s course, I carried out research projects to understand humans’ roughness sense. In these research projects, I took advantage of knowledge and methods within mechanical engineering discipline but also studied and applied methods and knowledge from other disciplines. After the completion of the master’s studies, I worked for four and a half years at NTT Microsystem Integration Laboratories in Japan. There I worked on research and development of innovative wearable medical sensors for future ubiquitous health-care services. Then I started my Ph.D. study at the Department of Computer Science at University of Tromsø (currently UiT The Arctic University of Norway). The research project I worked on was a part of a larger project at Norwegian Center for Telemedicine (NST,

currently the Norwegian Centre for E-health Research). The aim of the umbrella project was to develop a mobile phone based self-help tool for people with Type-2 diabetes. My research focused on how we could design a self-help tool by understanding a long-term use and user experiences of the tool in relation to their self-management of the disease. Computer science is also a broad discipline by itself, but the most relevant area to my research was Human-Computer Interaction, which again draws knowledge and methods from many other different disciplines and integrates them into a coherent whole.

In my view, many eHealth research projects I have seen were either multidisciplinary or cross-disciplinary, while few research projects were interdisciplinary. eHealth is a relatively new practice. eHealth could be seen as a transdisciplinary field, but not considered as a single discipline, yet. In this sense, eHealth researchers working in an interdisciplinary manner may face challenges in positioning oneself in a conventional discipline system. Most probably, many researchers working in an interdisciplinary manner in other fields have also experienced the same challenges. On the other hand, interdisciplinary researchers will be a good coordinator of an interdisciplinary research project that requires cross-disciplinary communication to organize an interdisciplinary team. In fact, as a postdoctoral fellow at the research group “Universal Design of ICT” in Oslo Metropolitan University, I invited researchers from different fields to launch and run a survey project regarding eHealth use among the first-generation immigrants from Pakistan for self-care of Type-2 diabetes. I am pleased that all the invited researchers and I could comfortably collaborate and that I could coordinate the team so that we could carry out the research in an interdisciplinary manner.

In the match-making session after the career talks, we were divided into groups and discussed possibilities for collaboration on research and ideas for new research projects. It was a pleasure that I could receive positive feedback to my presentation and that the discussion was very fruitful. I appreciate that I could meet many researchers with very different backgrounds. I will definitely participate in a similar event in the future.



Dr. Tatara during her lecture



## All Alumni Meeting in Finland FY2018

Miho Nakamura, Senior researcher, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku

All Alumni Meeting was held in Helsinki on March 1, 2019. The purpose of this event was to encourage the academic networking and to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Finland and Japan. This event was jointly organized by the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland, Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki, JSPS Stockholm Office and supported by the Embassy of Japan in Finland. The participants were Japanese and Finnish researchers from different academic fields.

After the opening remarks by Mr. Takao Yoshihara, Deputy Director of JSPS Stockholm Office, the program continued to introduce the activities of Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki by Prof. Shinichiro Tabata (Director), and Mr. Takehiro Okabe (Deputy Director), followed by the introduction of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships by Ms. Henna Tanskanen, Cultural Affairs and Public Relations of the Embassy of Japan in Finland, and then Ms. Ulla Ellmén introduced the programs and activities of Academy of Finland. Lastly Mr. Reijo Munther informed about activities of Business Finland. I realized that it is important to understand the difference in the programs and activities of Academy of Finland and JSPS to strengthen the international academic collaborations between Japan and Finland.

Following the introductions, Prof. Yasushi Takeda, ETH Zurich/Hokkaido University, had a lecture entitled "Essential difference between Science and Technology – Practitioner's view". Prof. Takeda talked about the differences of science and technology from different angles. I was interested in the differences of philosophical interpretations in Eastern and Western cultures. The lecture was so interesting and the time went so fast.

Then I had a presentation about "Artificial bones for tissue regeneration -Multidisciplinary collaborations between Finland and Japan-". When I was working for Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) as an Assistant Professor, I had a research experience abroad supported by the JSPS Excellent Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program in 2010. The publication of the results from the program gave me a chance to come to Finland. When I was working for TMDU as an Associate Professor, I was invited



Dr. Nakamura during her lecture

from University of Oulu in Finland as a Visiting Professor. We had started the research collaboration between Finland and Japan since 2014 and then continued it with the support of JSPS Fostering Joint International Research. We could not continue the collaboration without the support from TMDU and JSPS. I would like to express my thanks to TMDU for accepting my leave and JSPS for financial support to hire someone who helped education/research activities during my stay in Finland. In the presentation, I talked about artificial bones for tissue regeneration in osteoporosis treatment as the results of our collaboration.

The last lecture entitled "Forest trees under climate change - using Big data and hyper spectral imaging in genetic research" was given by Prof. Elina Oksanen. Many interesting topics were presented in the talk. Especially I was interested in the fact that the efficacy of photosynthesis was higher in Finnish northern birch and the technology to visualize the infection of tobacco leaves. After the lectures, many people joined the reception and communicated with speakers, audience and organizers. I have enthusiasm for further international collaborations and look forward to making a good contribution to the collaborations between Finland and Japan. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support from TMDU, JSPS and organizers of this meeting to give me this opportunity to have a presentation.



Group photo taken after the lectures



## Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly in Denmark FY2018

Haruhide Mori, Professor, Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University

The conference Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly in Denmark (JARA) FY2018 was held on March 15, 2019. I was fortunately given the chance to make a presentation there. This article briefly reports JARA FY2018.

JARA FY2018 was jointly organized by the Embassy of Japan in Denmark, Tokai University Alumni Association in Denmark, JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD), and JSPS Stockholm Office, and held at Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Following the opening remarks and the provision of various information from the organizers, two lectures and a panel discussion were held.

As the first speaker, I first introduced the academic exchange which I have involved in for over 20 years with Dr. Birte Svensson, who is a Professor of DTU (previously at Carlsberg Laboratory), one of the world's top researchers in carbohydrate-related enzyme research. She has visited us in Hokkaido University almost every year for giving lectures and individual discussions, which brought about high educational effects in addition to the research exchange. In fact, four graduates jumped into her laboratory to do research as postdoc. All of them are currently working as faculty members in Japan.

The main academic content of my lecture was on the diversification of carbohydrates by enzyme functions. Carbohydrates can be compared to Lego blocks. Depending on the combination of constituent sugars (pieces) and binding manners, numbers of different structures can be formed. As examples of our researches, sugar isomerase and phosphorylases were introduced. In addition to pure academic research on enzymes themselves, functional sugars such as functional food materials, antibiotic substitutes, and plant growth regulators can be produced as outcome of the enzyme functions. Practically it is an attractive research field.

In the last part of my presentation, I also introduced some activities of researches at Hokkaido University in the field of agriculture and food, such as development of unmanned collaborative tractors, and Graduate School of Global Food Resources. In this graduate school, all the master's first year students participate in the Aarhus University summer school to learn regional agriculture including surrounding society and environment. The Embassy of Denmark in Japan helps a lot for this activity.



Prof. Mori during his lecture

The second presentation was given by Professor Leila Lo Leggio, University of Copenhagen. She has visited Photon Factory at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), (and also Hokkaido University) as a protein crystallographer. She gave a very clear lecture on protein structures and enzymes involved in biomass degradation.

Then, a panel discussion was held and I participated as one of the panelists. The topic of the panel discussion was "Contribution of academic research, particularly collaboration between Denmark and Japan, for solving global food and environmental challenges and promoting sustainable use of resources". Four panelists, including Prof. Lo Leggio, Prof. Svensson, Dr. Henrik Gudmundsson and me, discussed various things such as resources needed, better usage, and also possible system for sustainable joint research between the two countries.

This time, I was given such a valuable opportunity to join JARA FY2018. I was also able to visit DTU the day before JARA FY2018 and made another presentation at a seminar held by Department of Biotechnology and Biomedicine at DTU, and also had discussions with many students and academic staff for research exchange. I would like to once again thank the organizers, especially Prof. Maher Abou Hachem and JSPS staff members.



Prof. Mori, Prof. Lo Leggio, Prof. Svensson and Dr. Gudmundsson during the panel discussion

## JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (SAC)

Johan Eriksson, Associate Professor, Department of Art History, Uppsala University

Earlier this year I had the great opportunity to visit Tokyo and Sakai Lab. of the Department of Intermedia Art and Science at Waseda University. Thanks to an earlier JSPS scholarship I previously had the opportunity to visit the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto to conduct research on the project "The Visual Communication of Early Modern Japan", under the guidance of Prof. Kazuhiko Kasaya. This will result in an article for the Japan Review and a monograph entitled "Det japanska slottet" (The Japanese Castle). The previous stays have also resulted in the ongoing university course "Japans konst, arkitektur och visuella kultur" (Japanese Art, Architecture and Visual Culture) at Uppsala University.

The last few years I have also worked with the research project "The Virtual Museum at the Royal Palace, 1795-1866", which is aiming at a digital 3D reconstruction of the historical art galleries of the Royal Palace in Stockholm. This is a joint project with my colleague Prof. Per Widén, Prof. Masaki Hayashi and Prof. Steven Bachelder at the Department of Game Design at Uppsala University. A pilot study was presented at the Uppsala University-Tokyo Tech Symposium in Tokyo in November 2017, which resulted in new input and future collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Shoichi Hasegawa, Prof. Itsuo Kumazawa, and Prof. Masayuki Nakajima at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Thus this stay had a threefold purpose: to conclude the research on early modern Japanese architecture; to enrich the university course on Japanese visual culture; and last but not least to develop research questions, methods and user interfaces for the virtual museum project.

Even though Tokyo has lost many of its historical buildings, there are many smaller buildings preserved which can function as important sources for our understanding of architecture as a visual tool in the Momoyama and Edo Periods in Japan. Daimyo portals as Akamon and Ikedamon in Ueno and several smaller temples and shrines give us a good picture of the strictly hierarchical system of early modern Japan and of what image the patron wanted to display. Ueno Toshogu Shrine



Prof. Sakai and Assoc. Prof. Eriksson in front of the Meiji Shrine, Yoyogikoen, Tokyo

**Host Institution in Japan:** Waseda University, School of Fundamental Science and Engineering, Department of Intermedia Art and Science, Sakai Lab.

**Host researcher:** Prof. Shigekazu Sakai

**Fellowship period:** 2019.01.15-2019.01.28

is another little gem and a fine example of the architecture that the Tokugawa regime erected for the remembrance of Tokugawa Ieyasu, all built in Chinese style, covered with gold leaves and with the recurring Tokugawa emblem (mon in Japanese) with the famous triple hollyhocks.

Thanks to the generous support of JSPS, I was also offered the possibility to visit several places in central Japan, for example to study one of the twelve original castle keeps, Matsumoto Castle, also called Crow Castle (Karasu-jō in Japanese) due to its black color. This keep (tenshukaku in Japanese) is also one of the earliest, probably finished already by 1594 under the Tokugawa-loyal Ishikawa lords, and later restored to its original grandeur in the Meiji and Showa periods.

Finally, the Virtual Museum, which is an immersive digital 3D version of an art gallery, developed as a tool for understanding historical museums and the display of paintings in different locations. So far, we have carried out a pilot study of one



Tenshukaku of Matsumoto Castle with the Tsukumi Yagura (Moon Viewing Tower) to the right, Matsumoto

wall in the Royal Palace in Stockholm and it is our aim to scale up the project to encompass the entire gallery. This work raises several questions, both concerning how to best present the content, and about technical solutions and user interfaces. As a pioneer in computer graphics and a previous guest professor at Uppsala University, Prof. Shigekazu Sakai has been an important mentor for this project and the discussions and research exchange with him and his colleagues at Sakai Lab. of Waseda University was very fruitful.

This research trip to Japan of course provided me with opportunities to experience more than the regular research exchange, such as excellent food, fantastic nature with deep powder snow, and a night at the Ryōgoku Kokugikan in Sumida with the most noble of martial arts, sumō.



## JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (SAC)

**Mikael Lindgren**, Professor, Department of Physics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

In the very end of September 1988 I arrived at Chitose airport (Sapporo) for my first postdoctoral experience in Japan. I knew very little about Japan at that time. It happened so that my first year of living in Japan coincided with the last year of the Showa dynasty. Apart from the sad passing of the emperor, it was a very joyful and progressive time with optimism and creativity in all sectors of Japanese society. The students in the lab were bright and respectful, and taught me how to enjoy the Japanese culture and food. This was easy as I was still an open-minded student, and have continued to keep it that way in my research ever since. So, for me to get another opportunity to visit Japan as an established professor and a BRIDGE fellow, I felt really very grateful. Not only did it commemorate my 30-year experience and continuous research exchange with Japan, it was also an opportunity to establish new research projects with my host, Professor Tamotsu Zako at Ehime University.

I got to know Professor Zako in 2008 when he was working at Riken in Saitama, as a young promising scientist. It stimulated joint projects between Japan, Norway and Sweden around detection of amyloid proteins. Now we are both part of a Norwegian-Japanese bilateral research exchange initiative of Kyoto International Forum for Environment and Energy (KIFEE). The purpose with the BRIDGE proposal and project was to 're-initiate' collaboration with Professor Zako in his recently established lab at Ehime University. I acted as a daily supervisor of four different students' projects and we generated many experimental results using spectroscopy, microscopes and biochemical techniques. As I am experienced in spectroscopy and microscopy (applied physics) and Zako-lab is oriented from biochemistry, it gave very stimulating results, and we had a lot of fun in the lab and many opportunities to learn from each other. It was both very practical and stimulating to get an ordinary desk among the students. Besides day-to-day activities with many students in the lab, there was also time for social activities such as tako-yaki and some weekend trips to explore the mountains and the shores of beautiful Shikoku Island.

**Host institution in Japan:** Ehime University, Graduate School of Science and Engineering

**Host researcher:** Prof. Tamotsu Zako

**Fellowship period:** 2018.10.15 – 2018.11.28

I was also invited to participate in a mini work-shop about 'insulin treatment and amyloidosis' in Tsukuba on Nov 9, 2018 and had the opportunity to discuss with many of Professor Zako's collaborators within the medical application field. I also visited the lab of Professor Kazunari Akiyoshi of Kyoto University and delivered a seminar there.

I am very confident and happy to have participated in the BRIDGE Fellowship Program. It has renewed and strengthened our collaboration, indirectly also with other partners in Japan, Norway and Sweden. Very recently we submitted a joint proposal to the Research Council of Norway. Personally, I found it very stimulating to work among and together with the excellent students of the host lab. I noticed that in these short six weeks it inspired them to work harder, also with communication and presentation in English. I received very positive feedback and response from the students, who made even greater efforts into their scientific work when they were challenged with some 'extra' supervision. Concerning the practical and logistic aspects of the JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Program, it was both effective and sufficient. Housing and travel issues were solved smoothly with assistance from the excellent administration at Ehime University.



On weekend camp to Kuma-kougen with students of Zako-lab



## JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (ACF)

**Ilpo Niskanen**, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Technology, Structures and Construction Technology Unit, University of Oulu

Over the past ten years, my research interests were focused on optical spectroscopy, measuring technology, construction of optical devices and calculation algorithms. I researched optical properties of process liquids, wastewater from paper mills, milk, printing inks, red wine, pigments, wood fibers, sugar, cosmetic and nanoparticles. Particularly, I am interested in the determination of complex refractive index of liquid and particles. I received good news about a year ago that I was awarded an opportunity to work as an exchange researcher at Shimane University in Matsue for six weeks. The aim of the study at Shimane University was to understand how we can detect and control temporal variation film of paint drying process. The drying process of paint is complex phenomena. It depends on temperature, humidity, airflow, solvents, binders and paints thickness. The control of drying times is of particular interest for achieving economy, where the main focus lies on what is important to establish short duration for drying of the first layer before the application of the second layer. Prof. Dr. Masayuki Yokota and his research group guided me on this topic. The laboratories are equipped with cutting-edge research analysis tools and measuring devices and dedicated professional staff. The atmosphere at work has been very inspirational. It was exciting and possible to develop and study novel optical measurement technology solutions, to do experimental research and to learn new things in Japan. Now we are writing the manuscript for the results of the measurement to a scientific journal. In addition, the scholarship has given me the possibility to meet again Prof. Yutaka Tabe of Hokkaido University. We have been cooperating together since 2012.

What comes to my mind when I hear Japan are great food, polite people, seasonal festivities “cherry and plum blossoms”, old architecture, versatile culture, beautiful sandy beaches and big city neon lights at midnight, but above all, Japan is famous for science. The JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship has been opening new windows into the

**Host Institution in Japan:** Shimane University, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Department of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronic Engineering

**Host researcher:** Prof. Masayuki Yokota

**Fellowship period:** 2018.10.05-2018.11.12

research work, and creating a research network and good opportunities to explore the local culture. Japanese culture is largely based on respect, trust and friendship. These values are not very different from Finnish culture.

I also found some similarities between Finish people and Japanese people when I visited Japan for my research. They are both hard workers and I’m glad to know that many Japanese people love Snufkin, which is a character in the Moomin series of books. Snufkin is happy-go-lucky and has a lot of good scientist nature. I believe that following Snufkin’s footsteps helps young researchers open their mind, challenge themselves and go abroad so that they can open a new window to their research work, create a research network and good opportunity to explore a local culture.

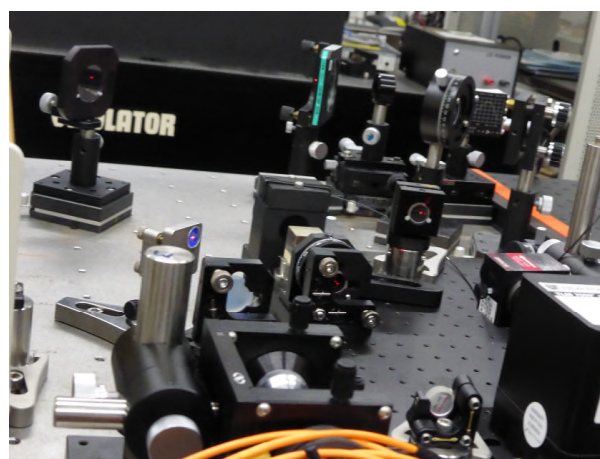
I have been lucky. I want to thank JSPS funding for the opportunity to visit Japan two times. It was possible to see many of my colleagues who I met during my JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program from 2014 to 2015. I want to thank Prof. Yokota and his students for being my hosts in research discussions and social events. Finally, I will quote Fujiwara no letaka’s poem.

*To those who wait only for cherry blossoms,  
show them the spring of grass amid the snow  
in a mountain village.*

Fujiwara no letaka



Adj. Prof. Niskanen, Dr. Hibino (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, AIST) and Prof. Yokota at Matsue



Optical setup

## JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (ACD)

David Brander, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

Integrable systems in geometry is an area of mathematics that studies special geometries associated to so-called integrable nonlinear partial differential equations. These are special equations that are important in physics and, despite being nonlinear, can often be solved using ideas that come from a spectrum of mathematical disciplines. Most of the integrable systems that are studied are harmonic maps from surfaces into higher dimensional spaces, and these are fundamental, being a special case of the famous Yang-Mills equations. I have been interested in integrable systems since my PhD work at Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra in 2002-2005, and I started collaborations with researchers in Japan during a JSPS postdoctoral position in 2006-2008 at Kobe University.

After moving to Denmark in 2008, I maintained some interactions with Japanese collaborators. In my research field there is quite a strong Japanese involvement; so connections, either through collaborations or simply meeting at conferences, is helpful. To facilitate this, in 2018 I applied for a JSPS Bridge Fellowship to visit Professor Shimpei Kobayashi at Hokkaido University. My goals were a) to get started on a research project with Professor Kobayashi that we had already discussed at a meeting in Germany, and b) to give some research presentations about my research and explore other possible future collaborations.

The research visit was 19 days in October, which, though cool in Sapporo, is still a nice time to visit. Hokkaido University has a beautiful campus, which is even a tourist attraction visited by a noticeable number of Japanese and Chinese tourists. The many large trees were green when I arrived, but already red and yellow by the end of my visit. Professor Kobayashi arranged two workshops while I was

**Host Institution in Japan:** Hokkaido University, Faculty of Science

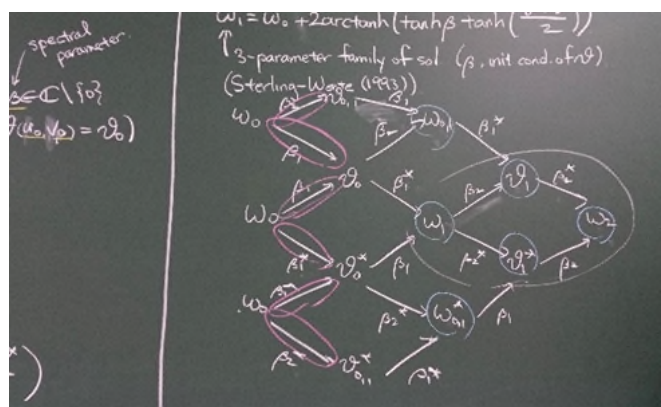
**Host researcher:** Assoc. Prof. Shimpei Kobayashi

**Fellowship period:** 2018.10.05-2018.10.26

there; one on integrable geometry, and another on geometry and design, which is another of my research interests. These were small workshops where we could actually have deep research discussions – the kind of workshop that usually turns out to be the most useful and productive. I met researchers from Tsukuba, Kobe, Kyushu and Shizuoka Universities. During my stay, I also visited Kyushu University to attend a workshop and give a research presentation there.

As for my previous trips to Japan, the visit was very pleasant and stress-free, and the food was great. From a research perspective I think the goals were achieved: I have started at least two new research collaborations involving three researchers from Japan and one from China, and made new connections there that I will meet again later this year at another conference. One of the research projects is also an introduction for me to a new and interesting research topic from mathematical physics. So I am very happy with the outcome of this fellowship.

I would like to thank JSPS for their support allowing me to once again visit this unique country. I hope to go again soon.



A workshop at Hokkaido University



Assoc. Prof. Brander at Mt. Tenguyama

## 2019.2.7 Courtesy visit to the Ambassador of Japan in Norway

Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and International Program Associate Igei paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Japan in Norway and met with H.E. Ambassador Masahiro Tauchi. They visited Norway to participate in the Norway-Japan Academic Network, which was held the previous day. During the meeting they shared the current situation of Norway and Japan research collaboration, and also confirmed further academic interaction between the two countries.



H.E. Ambassador Tauchi, Director Tsumoto, Deputy Director Yoshihara and Ms. Igei

## 2019.4.12 Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Japan in Sweden

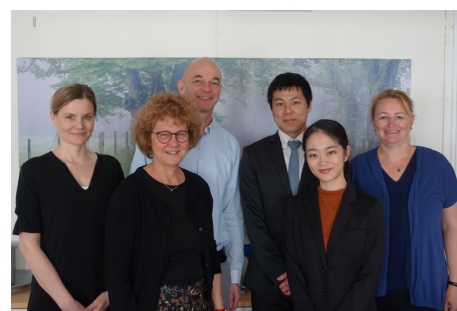
Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Izumi and Yoshinaka paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Japan in Sweden to introduce the newly arrived two International Program Associates. They met with Mr. Suzuki, First Secretary and discussed upcoming joint events.



Ms. Yoshinaka, First Secretary Suzuki and Mr. Izumi

## 2019.4.25 Courtesy Visit to Stockholm University

Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Izumi and Yoshinaka paid a courtesy visit to Stockholm University (SU) to introduce the newly arrived two International Program Associates. They met with Ms. Maria Wikse, Head of International Affairs, Ms. Elisabet Idermark, Senior Advisor International Relations, Mr. Niklas Tranaeus, Senior International Coordinator, and Ms. Johanna Wiklund, Senior International Coordinator. They talked about international collaboration between Sweden and Japan, the partnership among SU, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Karolinska Institutet (KI), and the University of Tokyo. They also exchanged ideas on how to strengthen further partnership between the two countries.



Ms. Wiklund, Ms. Idermark, Mr. Tranaeus, Mr. Izumi, Ms. Yoshinaka and Ms. Wikse

## 2019.5.6 Visit by Prof. Kohei Miyazono from Tokyo University

Prof. Kohei Miyazono, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo, and his student visited us. They exchanged views and information about collaboration and researcher exchange between Sweden and Japan.



Prof. Miyazono in the right edge

## 2019.5.9 Courtesy Visit to Karolinska Institutet

Deputy Director Yoshihara, International Program Associate Izumi and Yoshinaka paid a courtesy visit to Karolinska Institutet (KI) to introduce the newly arrived two International Program Associates. They met with Ms. Lotta Lundqvist, International Coordinator. They discussed the international collaboration between Sweden and Japan, and shared information of events conducted between KI and universities in Japan.



Ms. Yoshinaka, Ms. Lundqvist and Mr. Izumi



## Learning from History: the Father of Swedish Mathematics

Tomoko Svedlund Ishii, Liaison Officer, JSPS Stockholm Office

Last November I visited the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) for the first time on the day of KVA-JSPS Seminar. When I entered into the solemn building, I saw some portrait paintings hanging on the wall of the foyer. One of them caught my eyes, it was a painting of a man in a dignified manner. The next moment, I found a familiar name on the plate below the painting, which said "G. Mittag-Leffler". I was glad that I finally got to see his face. I took a photo of him and sent it to my father later with a text "Look whom I met today".

Gösta Mittag-Leffler was a Swedish mathematician, often called the father of Swedish mathematics. He was born in 1846 in Stockholm, studied at Uppsala University and spent time in Paris and Berlin where he interacted with researchers such as Henri Poincaré and Karl Weierstrass. Later in 1875, he obtained a position as a professor at University of Helsinki. After he came back to Stockholm in 1880, he became the very first professor at the newly founded Stockholm College (present Stockholm University), later he served two terms as a president of the university as well. In 1916, Gösta Mittag-Leffler and his wife donated their own wealth, including their villa with library, and the Institute Mittag-Leffler was founded. Carrying on Gösta Mittag-Leffler's will to present day, this institution has been active on supporting international research in mathematics with major activities such as research programs, conferences, workshops and summer schools.

By the way, why was I familiar with his name? It was because my father, who also is a mathematician, had an opportunity to stay at the Mittag-Leffler Institute in Djursholm during a beautiful Swedish summer some years ago. When I first heard of the word "Mittagleffler" from him, I remember it sounded mysterious to me. I didn't think it was someone's name. I paid extra attention to this word every time I pronounced it. As a result it stayed in my memory.

When I was in my early teens, my father gave me a biography of Marie Curie. I read the book again and again, imagining about this girl who never gave up in spite of the poverty and hardships, and became a world-known scientist with outstanding achievements. Needless to say, Marie

Curie was awarded the Nobel Prize twice: once in Physics in 1903 and the second time in Chemistry in 1911. She was also the first woman to win the prize, back at that time when men dominated science while female scientists were undervalued.

Behind the scenes of Marie Curie winning the Nobel

Prize of Physics, Gösta Mittag-Leffler played an important role as a member of Academy. In the original nomination list for the prize, Marie Curie's name was not present, only her husband Pierre Curie and Becquerel. Through exchanging letters with Pierre Curie, Gösta Mittag-Leffler understood that Marie Curie was also a central figure of the research, and encouraged the Committee to add Marie in the nomination. He was also known for his contribution when a female mathematician, Sofia Kovalevskaya, obtained a position as math professor and thus became the first Russian female professor.

Nowadays, the Nordic countries are known for their reputation as the world's most gender equal societies. Even more than 100 years ago there was a man who understood the importance of it and took action.

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<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/themes/marie-and-pierre-curie-and-the-discovery-of-polonium-and-radium/>



The portrait painting at KVA



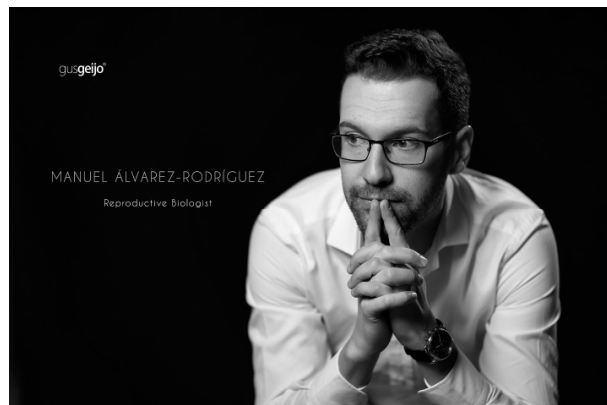
The Mittag-Leffler Institute

<http://www.mittag-leffler.se/about-us>

## The JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC)

In this section we introduce JSPS Alumni Clubs through an interview with a club member. This time we met Dr. Manuel Álvarez-Rodríguez, who is a regular member of SAC.

- \* **Name:** Manuel Álvarez-Rodríguez
- \* **Title/ Position:** Principal Research Engineer
- \* **Affiliation:** Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKE), BKH, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Linköping University (LiU)



**Q: Could you briefly introduce yourself and tell us about your relationship with the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden?**

A: I am a principal research engineer at Linköping University (LiU). I pursued my BSc in Biology in 2007 and PhD in Reproductive Biology in February 2013. In August 2014, I enrolled in LiU as a postdoctoral researcher (supervised by Professor Heriberto Rodríguez-Martínez) and I was granted a JSPS Short-term Fellowship to visit Japan from February to June 2017 (Professor Teruhiko Wakayama, University of Yamanashi). I have been a member of JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) since August 2017 and I had an opportunity to organize the JSPS SAC Activity Seminar from August 22 to 23 in 2018, on “Environmental Impact on Reproduction and Fertility” at LiU, kindly supported by the JSPS Stockholm Office.

**Q: How would you evaluate the JSPS program you participated in?**

A: I would describe both of the following programs as excellent opportunities:

1) JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term Program)

This fellowship, both the JSPS and my supervisor in Japan, Professor Wakayama, really gave me a chance to improve my skills and, thus, my future in the field of developmental biology.

2) JSPS SAC Activity Seminar 2018

After applying for organizing the SAC Activity Seminar I felt absolutely supported by the JSPS staff. Moreover, the established collaboration with Professor Wakayama allowed me to invite him as our special guest for this seminar.

**Q: How has the JSPS program contributed to your career and/or research?**



Full research group of Professor Wakayama at Yamanashi University, Japan, at the moment of my JSPS Short-term Fellowship program (February-June 2017)

A: The JSPS program offered me a possibility of a personal and professional development in my field of research. Of course, of utmost importance was the recommendation from my mentor at LiU, Professor Rodríguez-Martínez, to apply for this excellent opportunity, as an active member as he currently is. In addition, Professor Wakayama offered me an individual and personal space for work and always showed his availability to teach me the required techniques. The valuable personal and professional treatment throughout these five months was really appreciated.

Last, but not the least, this professional opportunity would never happen to me without the support from JSPS, not only financially but also practical matters from application to final report during the whole process.

### **Q: How has the Alumni Club membership contributed to your career and/or research?**

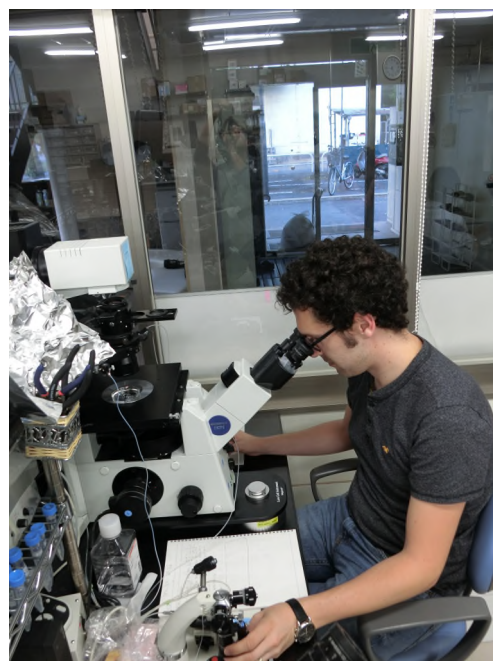
A: First of all, the JSPS English newsletters that I receive by email have helped me a lot in finding interesting opportunities to develop my professional skills. I strongly recommend all my colleagues to get involved somehow with the JSPS.

The opportunity of organizing the SAC Activity Seminar was an excellent experience to meet again my supervisor from my Short-term Fellowship in Japan. It also enabled me to organize a seminar with more than 10 speakers from Sweden and from Spain. Organizing this event was not possible without the supports I received as a member of SAC.

### **Q: How would you like the SAC to be like in the future, for example in terms of activities?**

A: There is always room for improvement, but taking into account all our busy schedules, I consider that SAC is doing an amazing work in exchanging information among members. Also SAC has contributed in having a direct link with excellent opportunities that JSPS is offering not only for postdoctoral researchers but also for senior researchers every year.

I always try to do my best to enroll in the organized activities and I really appreciate that we receive information in advance which enables me to adjust my teaching and research schedule with the club's activities.



One of the excellent equipments for micromanipulation available at the Advanced Biotechnology Center, at Yamanashi University

### **Q: Do you have any message for aspiring applicants for the JSPS programs and Alumni Clubs?**

A: I absolutely encourage you, as my mentor Professor Rodríguez-Martínez did for me, to really take a chance and apply for wide opportunities to develop your research in Japan. From one to 24 months, depending on the choice of a program, you are going to be able to do your research in world-top laboratories located in Japan. It will be, without any doubt, a way to personal and professional development, connecting leading research institutions, and starting up solid “bridges” between the countries. Please, enroll and you would not regret it!



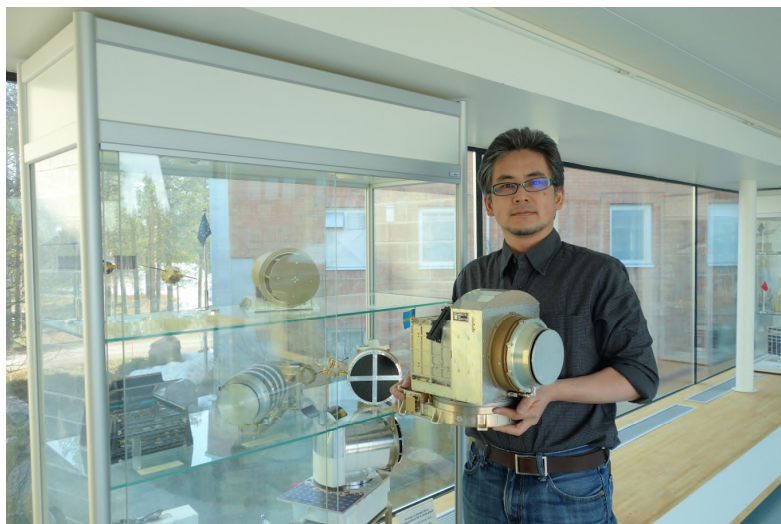
Some of the speakers and participants at the SAC Activity Seminar 2018: “Environmental Impact on Reproduction and Fertility”, including the special invited speaker Prof. Wakayama



In this section we ask Japanese researchers to present their experiences and research in their respective countries. For this issue we asked Dr. Yoshifumi Futaana, a researcher at the Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF), to present his research and experiences in Kiruna, Sweden.

## Dr. Yoshifumi Futaana

**Title/Position:** Associate Professor



Years	Degree	Institute	Location
2003.03	Ph.D.	Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University	Kyoto, Japan
2000.03	M.S.	Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University	Kyoto, Japan
1998.03	B.S.	Faculty of Science, Kyoto University	Kyoto, Japan

Years	Position	Institute	Location
2015.11 - present	Associate Professor	IRF	Kiruna, Sweden
2007.01 - 2015.10	Senior Scientist	IRF	Kiruna, Sweden
2006.04 - 2006.12	Postdoctoral Fellow	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)/ Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS); JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (PD)	Kanagawa, Japan
2004.04 - 2006.03	Postdoctoral Fellow	IRF; JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad	Kiruna, Sweden
2003.04 - 2006.12	Visiting Researcher	IRF	Kiruna, Sweden
2002.04 - 2004.03	Doctoral/ Postdoctoral Fellow	Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University; JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (DC2/PD)	Kyoto, Japan

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

A: How has the solar system evolved, and how will it evolve? By developing and operating instruments for planetary missions, followed by analysis of the recorded data, we are investigating the interaction between solar system bodies and the space environment.



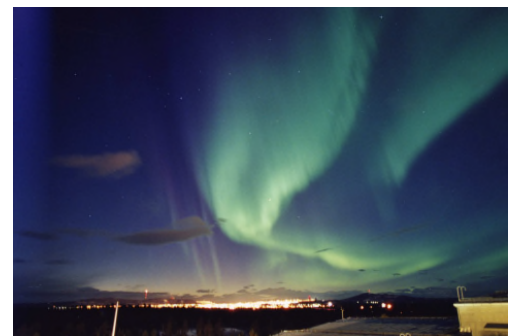
Charing at the institute seminar

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

A: Space is filled with plasma, an ionized gas. The aurora borealis is one of the most famous phenomena that shows how the plasma in space plays a key role as a result of the interaction between space and the Earth's atmosphere. My interest starts with the question "How does this phenomenon relate to the situation at the other planets?"

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

A: My current organisation, the Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF), has a long history of Martian exploration. After the failure of the Japanese Martian mission, NOZOMI in 2003, I chose to visit IRF since IRF had a dataset on the Mars plasma environment from a mission and IRF was preparing to operate a brand-new space instrument at Mars.



Aurora borealis above the City Kiruna, taken from my office in the institute

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

A: Space plasma is invisible, and it interacts with electromagnetic fields that are also invisible. The interaction makes the space plasma extremely dynamic. The challenge is to investigate the highly dynamic, invisible plasma using the limited data from space missions.

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

A: The daily research environment would not be so different between Japan and Sweden, likely because our institute is highly international. The most noticeable difference is the working hours: everyone works 8 hours a day usually, with two coffee breaks ("fika"). Most of us spend 4-6 weeks on summer vacation. On the one side it is a good work-life balance, but on the other side it is a big challenge to be able to sustainably conduct world-class research and education with a limited time.



A winter-monument of IRF at the space campus in Kiruna

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

A: We enjoy our life in Kiruna above the Arctic Circle. It is different from Japan, and even from Stockholm. We can see the aurora borealis in winter, and experience the midnight sun in summer. It is a very special place! Many Swedes are interested in Japan: its culture, history, and language. Having a broad knowledge about Japan in the international context is highly recommended.

## Schedule for the Announcement of the Nobel Prize 2019

This year's Nobel Prize announcement dates have been published by The Nobel Foundation and is set to take place during 7-14 October, 2019.

### **PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE—Monday, October 7, 11:30 a.m. at the earliest**

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

### **PHYSICS—Tuesday, October 8, 11:45 a.m. at the earliest**

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)

### **CHEMISTRY—Wednesday, October 9, 11:45 a.m. at the earliest**

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)

### **LITERATURE—Thursday, October 10, 1:00 p.m. at the earliest**

The Swedish Academy



Photo: Tomoko Svedlund Ishii

### **PEACE—Friday, October 11, 11:00 a.m.**

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

### **ECONOMIC SCIENCES—Monday, October 14, 11:45 a.m. at the earliest**

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)

Source: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/about/prize-announcement-dates>



## Prof. Tomoko M. Nakanishi received 2019's honorary doctorates from Chalmers University of Technology

Tomoko M. Nakanishi is awarded honorary doctorates at Chalmers for her interdisciplinary research on plant physiology, and development of new imaging methods. She is a Professor at the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Laboratory of Radioplant Physiology, The University of Tokyo, Japan. In 2015, she was elected as a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA). Prof. Nakanishi will receive the awards during the Chalmers doctoral degree ceremony in Gothenburg Concert Hall in Gothenburg on May 18, 2019, together with other two awardees, Prof. Atilla Incecik, University of Strathclyde, and Adj. Prof. Olof Bergstedt, Chalmers University of Technology.

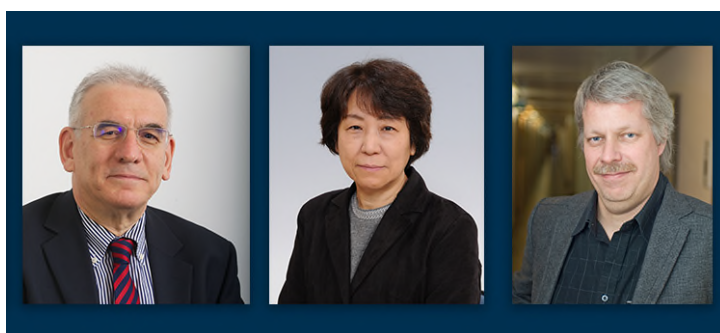


Photo: Prof. Atilla Incecik, Prof. Tomoko M. Nakanishi, and Adj. Prof. Olof Bergstedt

Source: <https://www.chalmers.se/en/news/Pages/Plants,-drinking-water,-and-marine-technology-%E2%80%93-2019s-honorary-doctorates.aspx>





## **International student recruitment booming in Stockholm**

According to the data published by the Stockholm Academic Forum (STAF), the number of international students in Stockholm, Sweden will exceed 10,000 in 2019, which is more than 20% increase over the last three years. In the report "Study Destination Stockholm: International student mobility, Stockholm 2017-2018" by STAF, it is pointed out that strategic work, including cooperation with prestigious universities worldwide and marketing has positively affected on the increase in international students.

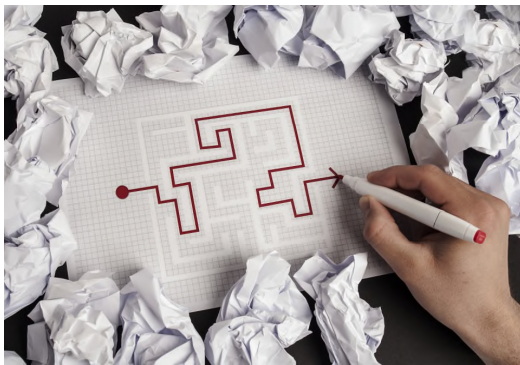
Source: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190301095751874>



Photo: Stockholm City Hall/ Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/photos/stockholm-stadshuset-horisont-2318507/>)



## **Academic researchers need a more reliable career path**



According to a new report by the Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy (DFiR), a long-term quality of university research in Denmark is at risk due to the current patterns of recruitment of researchers for universities. DFiR insists that an increasing proportion of researchers work in the private sector than in universities, and that some malfunctions have occurred in career paths in universities. They in particular are calling for a more open, broad and internationally oriented recruitment process.

Source: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190130150236330>

Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/photos/m%C3%A4nskliga-hand-f%C3%B6retaget-papper-3131802/>)



## **Academy of Finland signs the Declaration on Research Assessment**

The Academy of Finland has signed the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which recognized the need to improve the ways in which the outputs of scholarly research are evaluated, and was developed in 2012 during the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco . It is a worldwide initiative covering all scholarly disciplines and all key stakeholders including funders, publishers, professional societies, institutions, and researchers. The Academy will continue to promote DORA in Finland in collaboration with the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies and Universities Finland UNIFI.

Source: <http://www.aka.fi/en/about-us/media/press-releases/2019/academy-of-finland-signs-the-declaration-on-research-assessment-dora/>

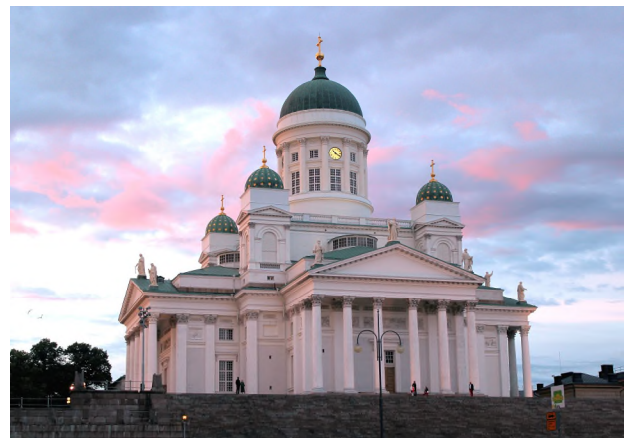


Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/photos/katedralen-helsingfors-skygning-3996049/>)



## Baltic Assembly Committee is meeting in Tallinn to discuss research and education

The Education, Science and Culture Committee of the Baltic Assembly had a meeting in Tallinn on February 8, 2019. The main topics for discussion were common research and study projects of the Baltic countries, cooperation between institutions of higher education, and vocational education.

Source: <https://www.riigikogu.ee/en/press-releases/others/baltic-assembly-committee-meeting-tallinn-discuss-research-education/>



Photo: Tallinn/ Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/photos/estland-tallinn-historiska-centrum-3737128/>)



## Foreign graduates of university to get more job options



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/photos/fotg%C3%A4ngare-m%C3%A4nniskor-upptagen-400811/>)

The Justice Ministry of Japan plans to make it easier for foreigners who graduate from universities or graduate schools in Japan to work in the country through widening the Designated Activities visa, and introducing "specified skilled" resident status. About 135,000 (as of May 2018) foreign students were studying at four-year universities or graduate schools in Japan according to the Japan Student Services Organization.

Source: <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201902180046.html>



## Japan aims to produce 250,000 AI experts a year

According to the government plan, Japan will seek to increase the development of talent proficient in artificial intelligence from a few thousand today to 250,000 a year. It aims all students enrolled in universities and technical schools to take a mandatory AI course in order to ease the labor shortage for AI experts.

Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Japan-aims-to-produce-250-000-AI-experts-a-year>



Photo: Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/sv/illustrations/artificiell-intelligens-hj%C3%A4rnan-tror-3382507/>)

## Call for Applications

### JSPS Alumni Club Activity Seminar FY2019 for ACN



**Application period:** May 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019

The JSPS Stockholm Office offers financial support for activity seminars organized by members of the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN). All board and regular members of ACN are eligible to apply for activity seminar funding.

More information including guidelines and application forms, please visit the link below:

<https://www.jsps-sto.com/event/call-for-alumni-club-activity-seminar-applications-fy2019-for-acn/>

### International Fellowships for Research in Japan

#### ***JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term) FY2019 & FY2020***

The program provides opportunities for pre-/ post-doctoral researchers to conduct cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions with the duration of 1 to 12 months.

Recruitment	Application deadline (from host institution to JSPS)	Periods for arrival in Japan
4th (FY2019)	Jun 7, 2019	Jan 1, 2020 - Mar 31, 2020
1st (FY2020)	Oct 4, 2019	Apr 1, 2020 - Mar 31, 2021
2nd (FY2020)	Jan 17, 2020	Aug 1, 2020 - Mar 31, 2021
3rd (FY2020)	Jun 5, 2020	Jan 1, 2021 - Mar 31, 2021

For more information, please visit the link below:

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-oubei-s/index.html>

#### ***JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard) FY2020***

The program provides opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to conduct cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions with the duration of 12 to 24 months.

Recruitment	Application deadline (from host institution to JSPS)	Periods for arrival in Japan
1st	Sep 6, 2019	Apr 1, 2020 - Sep 30, 2020
2nd	May 8, 2020	Sep 1, 2020 - Nov 30, 2020

For more information, please visit the link below:

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-ippan/index.html>

#### ***Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan FY2020***

The program provides overseas researchers who have an excellent record of research achievements with an opportunity to conduct collaborative research, discussions, and opinion exchanges with researchers in Japan.

This program consists of three options of Long-term, Short-term, and Short-term S.

Recruitment	Program	Application deadline (from host institution to JSPS)	Periods for arrival in Japan
1st	Long-term Short-term	Sep 6, 2019	Apr 1, 2020 - Mar 31, 2021
2nd	Short-term	May 8, 2020	Oct 1, 2020 - Mar 31, 2021

More information including application guideline and forms, please visit the link below:

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html>



## Upcoming Seminars and Symposia

### The 1st KVA-JSPS Seminar FY2019

The following seminars will be jointly organized by the KVA and JSPS Stockholm Office.

**Date / Venue :** June 10, 2019 / Karolinska Institutet (KI)

June 11, 2019 / Uppsala University

**Lecturer:** Prof. Takashi Yoshimura (Graduate School of Bioagricultural Science, Nagoya University)

### The 2nd KVA-JSPS Seminar FY2019

The following seminars will be jointly organized by KVA and JSPS Stockholm Office.

**Date / Venue :** June 13, 2019 / AlbaNova University Center

June 14, 2019 / Uppsala University

June 18, 2019 / AlbaNova University Center

**Lecturer:** Prof. Masataka Fukugita (Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe,  
the University of Tokyo)

### JSPS Stockholm Office E-mail Magazine

We began issuing an e-mail magazine in April 2019, which includes information about our seminars, symposia, alumni activities and international fellowship programs. To sign up for our e-mail magazine, please contact [jspsto@jps-sto.com](mailto:jspsto@jps-sto.com).

## 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:

<https://www.jspsto.com/newsletter-2/>

Our newsletters are also available on our website for reading online.

### JSPS Stockholm Newsletter (English Edition) #36

**Published on:** May 24, 2019

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

**Edited by:** Tomoko Svedlund Ishii

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

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

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

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

Cover Photo: Cherry blossoms of  
Ueno Park in Tokyo



Photo by Tomoko Svedlund Ishii

## 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/seminal/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/>