

Annual Norway-Japan Academic Network seminar 2024 (February 19th, 2024)

The annual Norway-Japan Academic Network seminar 2024 was co-organised by University of Bergen (UiB) and University of Stavanger (UiS), with Professor Thomas Ågotnes (UiB) and Professor Alexander Karl Rothkopf (UiS) as the organisers. It took place at the University of Bergen on 19 February 2024, from noon to 5pm. The seminar was open for anyone interested, but we asked for advance registration to be able to order refreshments. Around 25 people registered.

The theme of the seminar was Forging the Future of Norway-Japan Academic Collaboration. The goal of the event this year is to explore opportunities to intensify collaboration between Norwegian and Japanese research entities with the Japan-Sweden MIRAI initiative as guide. The seminar was opened by Camilla Brautaset, Dean at the Faculty of Humanities (UiB), who talked about the importance of collaboration and some of UiB's extensive connections to Japan. Kiko Itokazu from the JSPS Stockholm office then presented JSPS and discussed opportunities for JSPS fellowships for research in Japan, which attracted significant interest among the participants. In the main part of the program, we addressed some of the most pressing issues in our society, and talked about international collaboration as a way to cope with them. The seminar started with two talks on sustainable energy research. In her talk "HyTack-Tackling challenges in hydrogen technology through education, research and international collaboration", Olena Zavorotynska (UiS) talked about the HyTack project which is funded by RCN's UTFORSK program and is a good example of successful Norway-Japan collaboration. Shun Kashiwaya (University of Linköping) gave a very interesting talk about "Sustainable energy and water purification via photocatalysis powered by MIRAI seed funding and its business spin-off" which highlights research and innovation coming out of the Sweden-Japan MIRAI collaboration. After a break with coffee/tea and light food, the second part of the program focussed even more on the MIRAI programme. Morten Fjeld (UiB) and Naoto Kobayashi (Waseda University) shared their extensive experiences as members of the MIRAI initiative from two different perspectives - from the Swedish side and from the Japanese side. These extensive experiences are clearly very valuable for anyone who are planning research collaborations between Scandinavia and Japan. All the talks were followed by questions from the audience and a lively debate. Finally, the value of the networking arena is a given, and this seminar was a great opportunity to make new friends for future alliances and collaborations. The seminar was made possible with the generous support of JSPS and the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, UiB.

Call For NJAN seminar 2024 is opened !

Dear NJAN regular members: Up to 20 000 SEK (approximately 1800 EUR) for general organizing costs, as well as additional travel costs for a speaker invited from Japan will be covered. The seminar is expected to be held between September 17 2024 – January 31 2025.

Deadline of the application: **June 17 2024**.

Contact Information, JSPS Stockholm office email: sto-info@overseas.jsps.go.jp

* If you are an associate member, you can contact a regular member and organise this seminar under the supervision of that regular member. For more information, please contact JSPS Stockholm office.

On behalf of JSPS Norway-Japan Academic Network(NJAN), Dr. Michiko Atsumi(Hylleraas center, University of Oslo)

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