

Japan the Horned Islands

JSPS Nordic & Baltic Newsletter (11)

2012 Spring & Summer



Cherry flowers at Daigo Temple, Kyoto

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Hina-matsuri (Doll festival)

I. Prologue

What to be learned from Sweden

By Yoshiaki Fujii

In Stockholm, a long, dark and cold winter is over, spring has come. The joy of the arrival of spring is deeply appreciated by those who spent the winter in this area. When the day is getting longer day by day and the sun shines high in the sky, all plants sprout and animals become active. You realize that people in Sweden love the rich natural bounty of the sun all the more because winter is very harsh. This is most naturally reflected in the right “Allemansrätten” that allows people to enjoy woods, fields and islands without owners’ permission, picking berries, fruits and mushrooms. Needless to say, people are forbidden to cut trees or pollute the forests. It is said that this system has a very old history; people shows good manners and the owners are generous. I believe that many people have a strong desire to share the blessings of nature all the more because the winter is so severe.

When invited by warm spring weather, you stroll through the city, or extend your legs to the outskirts of the city; you will come across cliffs and rocky mountains here and there with exposing rugged surfaces. When you see this or the sight of many workers struggling with giants rocks at a Stockholm construction site, you realize that the city is built on top of huge rocks and you can easily imagine how difficult it was to build the city by making the roads, laying the railroads and constructing the channels. You will easily understand that Alfred Nobel noticed the strength of explosive power of nitroglycerin, invented dynamite by controlling its explosive force through impregnating it into diatomaceous earth without losing the destructive power, and made his fortune.

The match, which is no longer popular in Japan at present with the advent of the lighter, was also invented in Sweden. It was in 1855 that Johan Lundström invented the safety match to make a fire easily with a little shock from separate red phosphorus, then newly discovered, as igniting agent and sulfur as combustive agent. It is said that this Swedish safety match swept the markets worldwide. The safety match seems to be such a pride for Swedish people that it is even now sold as souvenir in Stockholm. There is a national match museum in Jönköping where the first match factory was built.

In addition, it is a surprise to know that many

things invented in Sweden spread across the world. For example, A. Celsius left his name in the invention of the Celsius thermometer, A. Ångström is in the unit of length and the inventors of the pacemaker of heart were R. Elmquist et al.

In the field of science and technology, A. Tiselius invented the electrophoresis that I was taught in the first lecture of my graduate school and exhibited the power in separating serum proteins and T. Svedberg who was his mentor at the Uppsala University devised ultracentrifuge, with which he succeeded in determining the conformation and molecular weight of protein molecules (S is the unit of sedimentation velocity derived from his name). In addition, J. Porath and P. Flodin created the molecular sieving gel filtration method by using cross-linked dextran, also at Uppsala University. The methods of separation and purification of biologic components, such as proteins and nucleic acids have been established by these technologies and made an immeasurable contribution to the development of modern life science. Also the father of taxonomy of plants and animals, which is Carl von Linné, should not be forgotten. He established the basis of nomenclature by creating the binominal nomenclature in his book “Systema naturae” published in 1735.

It is surprising to know that these described discoveries and inventions were invented in Sweden whose population is estimated to be less than one tenth of the population in Japan on the basis of present day’s record. In 19th century Europe, they said that Swedish people are good at improving the ideas and inventions of other countries. Indeed, many of the results described above are the establishment of methodologies and improvement of the originals. As you may know, however, the establishment of new technologies often leads to discovery and breakthrough of new areas of research. One of the most beautiful experiments in modern life science, the experiment proving the semi-conservative mechanism of replication of DNA was performed by M. Meselson and F. Stahl with use of ultracentrifuge. It would be of interest to know whether these discoveries and inventions of utility and applicability made by Swedes are due to their nature, education or traditional research climate. The Swedish-style realism by which one resolves

real problems logically by confronting them straight on does not seem to be limited to the field of science and technology. When the financial crisis struck Sweden in early 1990s, with a possibility of bankruptcy, the politicians took rapid measures to steer the finance into the high welfare and high cost policy with cooperation of both the ruling and opposition parties by cutting expenditure and increasing tax, resulting in turning around the financial crisis and instead generating a financial surplus in the end of 1990s. As another example of Swedish solutions of problems, the parliament was bicameral in the beginning and the Social Democratic Party had established long-standing one-party dominance until around 1970. Since then, however, SDP frequently lost the majority in the House of Representatives of 350 members and the politics did not proceed smoothly due to the so called Diet

twist. They noticed that the retarded process of politics was due to the bicameral system of the parliament and thus, changed the system of the parliament into the unicameral system of 350 members in 1971. In the election of 1973, however, the ruling and opposition parties happened to get 175 each, that is the same number in each camp, resulting in unwanted situations where the policies were determined by lottery. In order to improve these situations, the number of Diet members was changed to the current odd number of 349 in 1976. Realizing that rationality reaches such level, I cannot help but smile, while being thoroughly impressed by the speed and solidity with which Swedish people improve the situations, once the absurdity and irrationality are recognized. There is still more that we can learn from Sweden. (*Director, JSPS Stockholm*)

II. News

Honorary doctor



Yoshihide Hayashizaki was made honorary doctor of medicine (MDha) at Karolinska Institutet at a ceremony on May 25th, 2012. Professor Hayashizaki is the current head of RIKEN Omics Science Center in Yokohama, and has previously been foreign adjunct professor at

Karolinska Institutet. Professor Hayashizaki has made major contributions to the understanding of how genes are expressed from the genome. As head of the joint international project FANTOM which has been analyzing gene expression in both mice and humans, professor Hayashizaki invited Swedish researchers at an early phase, initiating a collaboration that is still on-going in FANTOM5. (*JSPS Stockholm*).

Meeting and Lecture Held by Japan- Sweden Joint Committee

On 10 May, the fifth meeting was convened of the Japan-Sweden Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology and a special lecture, sponsored by the Committee, was held as a side event on the following day. Held at Karolinska Institutet (KI), the lecture was delivered by JSPS executive director Dr. Makoto Asashima.

Dr. Asashima was invited to deliver the lecture because he is leading authority on the initiatives being taken by Japan in “life innovation,” which is a priority area in S&T cooperation between

Japan and Sweden and was a main theme of the previous day’s Committee meeting. He spoke on current developments in stem cell and other biological research being advanced in Japan while touching upon its future vistas.

Some 70 KI researchers and students, Japanese researchers doing work in Sweden, and science administrators from the two countries attended the lecture, which spawned an animated session of questions and answers. (*JSPS Stockholm*).

Japan-Norway Symposium Held on Space Sciences

Taking place between June 5th and 6th, the Japan-Norway symposium held on space sciences had the objective of building a network between Japanese and Northern European researchers mainly in the field of polar research and upper-atmospheric physics. Held at the University of Oslo (UiO), the symposium was co-organized by JSPS Stockholm and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and attended by some 70 regional researchers and administrators.

The event was opened with speeches by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, RCN director general Dr. Arvid Hallén, Embassy of Japan in Norway ambassador Mr. Akio Shirota, and MEXT International Science and Technology Affairs Division deputy director Mr. Eiji Tamai. Presentations covered the state of and prospects for research in upper/middle-atmospheric physics, the sun and solar activity, and ground-based/space-borne observations of the Polar Regions. The large number of diverse presentations was followed by active Q&A discussions and spirited exchanges of views in the ensuing working groups on each topic. As its foremost accomplishment, the symposium resulted in a decision to establish the Japan-

Scandinavia Polar Space Sciences (JSPSS) Net.

Further, the fourth Japan-Norway Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in June in Tokyo. Coordinated by Nagoya University vice-president Dr. Ryoichi Fujii and UiO professor Dr. Jøran Idar Moen, the Committee heard a report on the Japan-Norway Symposium as an example of research being advanced via collaboration in science and technology between Japanese and Scandinavian researchers. (*JSPS Stockholm*).



III. Reports

Sweden Alumni Club Board Meeting

By Lisa-Mi Swartz

JSPS Sweden Alumni Club's last board meeting was held on February 16, 2012. The attending board members were Chair Jan Sedzik, Ma Li Svensson, Göran Thor and Ulla Westermark.

Three of the board members have chosen to resign from office; Stig Allenmark, Ulla Westermark and Åke Öberg. The board decided to suggest Prof. Imre Paszit at Chalmers and Dr. Craig Wheelock at KI as new board members to the SAC members. The new board was later approved by the General Assembly to sit for the next three years.

Further, the activity plan for fiscal year 2012 was discussed and decided by the board. An information gathering event co-hosted with KVA and Embassy of Japan will be held this year, as well as a SAC seminar. The SAC seminar arrangement procedure was changed, where the board decided to send out an open call amongst all SAC members to send in an application in order to organize a seminar. This year the application from Alumni member Elin Palm at the Center of Applied Ethics, Linköping University, was chosen. Dr. Palm will organize an alumni seminar titled 'ICT-ethics: Sweden-Japan'. Please look out for

coming information regarding this event.

BRIDGE fellowship committee reported a growing interest for the fellowship that JSPS Stockholm office started to offer Sweden Alumni Club's members in 2009. The response from the home-coming fellows has been very positive. Last year's BRIDGE fellow Ulla Westermark's report is available on page 10 in this issue. (*Office Coordinator, JSPS Stockholm*).



SAC board members and JSPS Stockholm staff

Memorial Ceremony

First Anniversary of Great East Japan Earthquake

By Yoshiaki Fujii



Furusato sang in unison

A ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake was held on

March 14, 2012 at the Japanese ambassador's to Sweden residence. Approximately 150 people including Ambassador Watanabe, together with Swedish and Japanese officials were gathered.

Ambassador Watanabe offered a few mourning words for the victims and a silent minute was held. The Ambassador voiced his sincere appreciation of the physical and spiritual support given by the Swedish Government and Japanese people who live in Sweden, and stressed the importance of human bond and trust. After the speech, everyone could enjoy a performance of Andante from Sonata in B-flat Major by Franz Schubert played by Professor Staffan Scheja of the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. During the gathering, at a corner of the venue, a film was rolling, telling the

story of the disaster and showing the progress of reconstruction, which the participants were watching, each with their own thought. While the participants were mingling, there was a chorus of "Furusato: Home Country" by "Sakura", a

Japanese women's chorus group in Stockholm, and again, the song "Furusato" was sang in unison by all the participants at the end.
(Director, JSPS Stockholm).

Japan – Sweden
Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Meeting
By Makoto Asashima

From May 10th to 13th this year I participated in the Japan-Sweden Joint Science and Technology meeting. On the 10th I attended a dinner hosted by the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research. The host was Dr. Katarina Bjelke, who is the official in charge of research policy at the Ministry of Education and Research. Dr. Bjelke is well versed in regulatory science. She has a very good grasp of the science and technology policies of various countries and their current status, and behind her smiling face there was a feeling of self-confidence at being in charge of a country's science policy, and of having expectations of Japan. In addition to Japanese Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary K. Watanabe (in charge of science and technology) the other dinner guests from Japan were Director Dr. Y. Fujii of the JSPS Stockholm Center, and councilor E. Tabuchi from JSPS headquarters.

The following day I visited the Stockholm Center of the JSPS. The Center is currently in Karolinska Institutet (a medical university), and I came away with the impression that the location of the Center has the advantage of facilitating collaboration with the Institute. I visited the Karolinska Institutet's Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab), where I received a brief description of the SciLab and an explanation of the experiments being conducted there, and I toured the latest facilities for genomic science, bioinformatics, and other fields. Researchers from the Karolinska Institutet, the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, and Uppsala University come together in one place at the SciLab and carry out projects related to the development of genomic research and medicine. While technology-driven research predominates, because the hospital is nearby, clinical research is also vigorous, and many papers have been published since its foundation in 2010. There were exchanges of opinions on the operation of the SciLifeLab and its budget. Researchers who had utilized JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers or invitation projects and resided in

Japan for a long time described their own experiences, and there was the comment that short-term research exchanges should be emphasized over long-term exchanges. In between I attended a luncheon hosted by Karolinska Institutet, and in the afternoon I held the JSPS seminar in conjunction with the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Meeting and delivered a lecture entitled: "Recent Trend in Japanese Science/Stem-cell Research - Present and Future-." The Karolinska lecture room held about 60 people and was almost filled, and the question and answer session extended beyond the scheduled time. Later, I exchanged opinions with people at Karolinska Institutet, including with young Japanese researchers from my own laboratory living in Sweden. I felt that even though Sweden has a population of 9,000,000, it is full of vitality, with Karolinska Institutet at its center.

While in Stockholm, I received an invitation from Japanese Ambassador to Sweden Y. Watanabe, and I would like to express my



gratitude for being able to have valuable discussions about various topics, culture, and technology, and for his cordial hospitality.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone in regard to my trip, including Director Dr. Fujii and Ms. Yoshizawa of the JSPS Stockholm Center, and councilor E. Tabuchi and Ms. Sekido, who kindly traveled with me from Tokyo. (Executive Director, JSPS).

Report of Japan-Norway Symposium on Space Sciences in Polar Regions

By Ryoichi Fujii

The Japan-Norway Symposium on Space Sciences in Polar Regions co-hosted by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) was held at the Innovation Center of the University of Oslo on June 5th and 6th, 2012. The symposium had 66 participants including 31 Japanese from seven Japanese research institutions/universities. The number of oral presentations was 33.

At the opening ceremony, we were honored to have four opening addresses by Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, the president of JSPS, Mr. Arvid Hallén, the Director General of RCN, Mr. Akio Shirota, the Ambassador of Japan in Norway and Mr. Eiji Tamai, the Deputy Director of International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau of MEXT.

The objectives of the symposium were to further enhance long lasting Japan-Scandinavian collaboration and to strengthen the network among researchers in the polar upper atmospheric sciences, with discussing current and future research on the near Earth's space from 50 km altitude to its interactions with the solar wind as well as research on the solar atmosphere. A special emphasis was placed on climate and space weather in Polar Regions.

The collaboration between Japan and Scandinavia in space sciences has been based on three major means/fields; ground-based observations using EISCAT and other radars/lidars and optical instruments, space-borne in-situ observations using sounding rockets, and receiving indispensable data from Hinode satellite. The progress of the researches tells us that we will need smaller scale and three-dimensional observations/measurements to elucidate unsolved, more fundamental physical processes of phenomena taking place in our outer space. The symposium set up four major themes with

corresponding working groups; the above-mentioned 3 themes and the Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observation System (SIOS), adopted by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), that RCN is promoting for studying earth's environment and climate change. The WGs extensively discussed future plans and more concrete implementation plans. All responsible persons in the four themes gathering for the first time, confirming complementary roles to each other and discussing future plans such as EISCAT 3D, a rocket experiment plan, the next solar satellite, and SIOS interdisciplinary was extremely useful for more comprehensive collaboration and developments of the space sciences. It is noted that the rocket WG decided to have a follow-up conference in Japan in autumn. Taking this unique occasion, we established a network of researchers working on polar space sciences named JSPSS (Japan-Scandinavia Polar Space Sciences) for closer collaboration and the exchange of information.

We are deeply grateful to JSPS, RCN and MEXT for their great support on traveling of participants and logistics. Without their efforts, we would not have had such a successful symposium. A special thank is to Mr. Shirota, who kindly held a reception for us on the evening of the first day. Last but not least are thanks to the JSPS Stockholm Office and the Embassy who continuously helped us prepare the symposium from late 2011.

On June 19th Professors Jøran Moen and Ryoichi Fujii, the conveners of the symposium, reported the outcome of the symposium at the Japan-Norway Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology in Tokyo.

(Professor, Nagoya University).



Participants to the symposium

Hokkaido University Helsinki Office

By Shinichiro Tabata

In The Hokkaido University Helsinki Office was established on April 1, 2012 as the third overseas office of Hokkaido University following the opening of offices in Beijing (2006) and Seoul (2011). The Opening Ceremony was held at the University of Helsinki on June 1, 2012.

Hokkaido University was founded in 1876 as Sapporo Agricultural College, and is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in Japan. Currently, Hokkaido University has approximately 12,000 undergraduate and 6,000 graduate students studying in 12 undergraduate schools, 18 graduate schools, and 26 research institutes and centers. The words “Be ambitious!” serve as Hokkaido University’s motto which was adopted from a speech given by our very first Vice-President, Dr. William Clark.

The special mission of our Helsinki Office is not only to strengthen links we have with Finnish universities, but to create new ones with European universities, including those in Russia and former Soviet countries. Our University has concluded 30 university-wide agreements with our counterparts in Europe. With the establishment of our newest office, Hokkaido University intends to facilitate the process for foreign students to study at our University as well as encourage our students to study in Europe, and we will promote research exchanges, and strengthen our inter-university relationships.

One way we envision strengthening our inter-university relationships is through research collaboration in the fields of Engineering and Agriculture in cold regions, Low Temperature Research, Environmental Science, Indigenous Studies, and Slavic Studies-which are also intensively conducted in Europe, especially in Northern Europe. It is our important aim that the Helsinki Office will promote these academic exchanges.

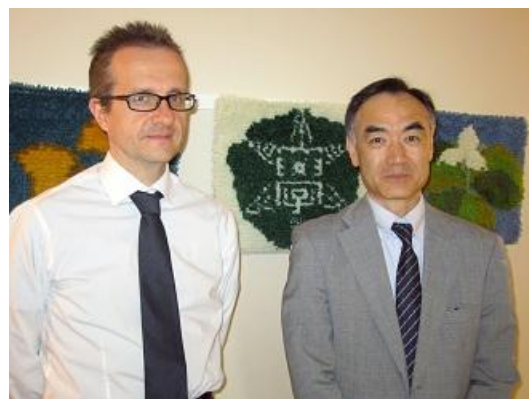
As for student exchange, European universities remain as popular study abroad destinations for Hokkaido University students. In this regard, we expect that our Helsinki Office will serve to link our students to European universities. The Helsinki Office will also encourage European students to study abroad at our University. For international students from partner universities, our University provides a broad range of courses at undergraduate level through our one

year program, HUSTEP (Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program), which allows students to study various subjects in English, and the JLCS (Japanese Language and Culture Studies) Program which is our one year intensive Japanese Language and Culture Program. At graduate level, we provide several degree programs offered in English in the field of engineering, veterinary medicine, agriculture, science, life science, and chemical sciences and engineering. Japanese language classes from introductory to advanced levels are also provided for international students and foreign researchers of our University.

The first important item on the agenda of the Helsinki Office is to facilitate a new study abroad program called the “First Step Program.” This program, geared toward undergraduate freshmen and sophomore students, is Hokkaido University’s platform to encourage our students to become outward bound. The Finnish program consists of visits to various research and educational institutions. Additionally, the “Fifth Joint Northern Environmental Research Symposium 2012” will be held in September with the University of Oulu, and again, we will facilitate this event.

In order to accomplish our missions, the Helsinki Office will also hold alumni club seminars, lectures, and other events in collaboration with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Stockholm Office. We believe that the activities of the Hokkaido University Helsinki Office will expand from Finland, to Northern Europe and whole Europe in the near future.

(Director, Hokkaido University Helsinki Office).



*Mr. Tero Salomaa,
Deputy Director of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office (Left)
Prof. Shinichiro Tabata,
Director of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office (Right)*

Courtesy Call on Nobel Museum

By National Museum of Nature and Science



External appearance of Nobel Museum

National Museum of Nature and Science (NMNS) and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) held the planned exhibition “Alfred Nobel” to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in collaboration with Nobel Museum as a co-organizer. The exhibition was divided into two parts: world traveling exhibition by Nobel Museum, “Alfred Nobel: Network of Innovation”, and Japanese original contents focused on Japanese Laureates.

“Network of Innovation” followed the tracks of Alfred Nobel and it was impressive in its artistic and graphically interesting designs which were markedly different from our usual exhibition. The questionnaire survey of our visitors showed that most of them were favorable to those novel designs.

On Japanese part, we directed a spotlight on achievement of no less than 18 Japanese Laureates. We interviewed those alive and the interview movies were played in the exhibition hall. Their real voices helped visitors to understand not only their attitude toward science but also their childhood histories, ways of thinking and their attractive personalities.

NMNS mailed the exhibition report to Nobel Museum on March, but we felt it would be better to report the result directly to express our gratitude for all their supports, and sent out our Deputy Director General, Mr. Mamoru Orihara and myself to visit Nobel Museum in June 2, 2012. We also intended to inspect a new Nobel-related traveling exhibition which Nobel Museum had been preparing.

The weather was inopportune, but the Museum

was filled with many tourists and it seemed that generality of visitors to Stockholm were highly interested in Nobel Prizes.

Dr. Olov Amelin, Museum Director and Ms. Anna Stenkula, Head of Exhibitions received us in Nobel Museum, and we had a lunch meeting at Museum’s restaurant. Since Dr. Amelin had visited NMNS and gave his special lecture on the day before we opened our special exhibition and had become acquainted with Mr. Orihara, we had our reunion meeting in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.



*Dr. Olov Amelin, Museum Director (Left)
Mr. Mamoru Orihara (Middle)
Ms. Anna Stenkula, Head of Exhibitions (Right)*

After the meeting, we visited their traveling exhibition under development called “Sketches of Science.” Laureates were challenged to “Draw Your Discovery!” with a blank sheet of paper and a box of crayons. After they completed their drawings, a portrait was taken and the portraits and original drawings were put on display with their interviews and presentations. We found “Sketches of Science” very interesting; it would give visitors a glance into Laureates’ ideas and gleams of intelligence. But we also got the impression that it would not be easy to import it just as it was into Japanese exhibitions. Most Japanese tend to show a cool interest in foreign Laureates, and translating can reduce the attraction of those precious verbal evidences.
(National Museum of Nature and Science)

BRIDGE Fellowship
Wood Chemistry in Japan
By Ulla Westermark

In 1974, the year before my PhD I had the privilege to stay and work during some months at FFPRI then in Meguro Tokyo. This was a very fascinating time. It was a great pleasure to come back 2011 to live in Tokyo after so many years. Many things I learn to appreciate almost 40 years ago were still there but also many new things side by side.



*Ulla Westermark and Prof. Matsumoto,
Tokyo University campus*

Japanese wood and pulp chemistry have a long and fruitful tradition and are still very influential internationally. Through the years since my first visit I have had many opportunities to meet and cooperate with Japanese wood chemist. During this visit I had the chance to regain contact with my colleagues both in the wood chemistry, paper chemistry and enzyme field.

Most of my time as a Bridge fellow I spend with my host departments at the Tokyo University, paper chemistry (professor Akira Isogai) and wood chemistry (professor Yuji Matsumoto) and got the privilege to learn and discuss in detail on the research projects of these two departments. I also had many and very interesting discussions on lignin chemistry with Drs. Aimi, Akiyama and Yamamoto and with the research students at both these departments. In my thesis many years ago I discovered a wood degrading enzyme. This enzyme has been extensively studied at Tokyo University from Professor Samejima and Associate professor Igarashi at the department of Forest Chemistry. They gave a very interesting

overview on what is known about the enzyme and its function today.

The 56th lignin meeting in Tsuruoka with more than 100 participants gave a very good insight in the lignin search of Japan at present. At this meeting I also had the opportunity to present a scientific paper named “One electron oxidation of wood and carbohydrates” coauthored by Anna Pantze and Olof Karlsson. At the same conference I was also the coauthor of a poster presentation by Professor Noritsugu Terashima from Nagoya University.

Since many years I have had a fruitful cooperation with Nagoya University (professor Terashima and professor Fukushima) on cell wall lignin ultra-structures. Professor Terashima kindly arranged my visit in Nagoya including a meeting with researchers from Toyota Boshoku company for discussion on boards. Professor Terashima also kindly accompanied me on a visit to see the fantastic Kenroku-en Garden in Kanazawa.

Finally I had the chance to meet with several retired colleagues including my hosts from my



visit in Japan 1974 Dr Ishihara and Dr Shimizu. I also had the chance to visit FFPRI in Tsukuba for discussions on solvolysis.

To me it was a fantastic visit both to see all interesting science that goes on in my field and to meet so many colleagues and good friends and also to live in the fantastic city of Tokyo.

(Professor Emeritus, Luleå University of Technology).

IV. Announcements

Fellowship Information

If you are planning to visit and perform research in Japan, the JSPS Stockholm Office is ready to provide you with useful information on the JSPS fellowship programs. The JSPS fellows are usually recruited in each fiscal year (beginning in April and terminating in March of the following year).

Two ways of applications are available. The main route is (A) to prepare application forms through your host researcher at the host-university or institution in Japan. The host will send all documents to the JSPS Head Office, Tokyo. You may be able to ask your host researcher in Japan to apply for it in advance. This route is open for researchers in almost all countries outside of Japan. JSPS have about 10 awardees for each call. As for the deadline of each application, please find the table as below.

The other route (B) is to apply through the nomination system in relevant countries, where the applicant lives. In this case, the country must be assigned as a partner country by JSPS (note that not all countries are assigned as JSPS partner). This route is in principal, open only for researcher who is a national of such country.

For example, if you are a Swedish researcher, you can apply through the nomination system of the following programs, depending on your career and research field: Post-doctoral fellowship (Standard-KVA, SSF, VINNOVA and Short-term-KVA) or Invitation fellowship (Short-term-VINNOVA).

You can find necessary information through the website of JSPS Head Office (as below) or JSPS Stockholm Office (<http://www.jsps-sto.com/> →Menu :Fellowship).
(JSPS Stockholm)

Program (Main Route)	Duration	Application Dead line(※1)	Commencement of fellowships (※2)
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs For Young post-doctor etc. http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html	(Standard) 12 to 24 months	<1 st Call> 3-7 Sep 2012	Apr 1, 2013 – Sep 30, 2013
		<2 nd Call> 2-10 May 2013	Sep 1, 2013 – Nov 30, 2013
	(Short-term) 1 to 12 months	<1 st Call> 5-12 Oct 2012	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
		<2 nd Call> 16-22 Nov 2012	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
		<3 ^d Call> 28 Jan-1 Feb 2013	Jun 2013 – Mar 2014
		<4 th Call> 1-5 Apr 2013	Aug 2013 – Mar 2014
		<5 th Call> 2-10 May 2013	Sep 2013 – Mar 2014
		<6 th Call> 29 Jul-2 Aug 2013	Dec 2013 – Mar 2014
Invitation Fellowship Programs for research in Japan For Professor or mid-career Researchers etc. http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html	(Long-term) 61 days to 10 months	3-7 Sep, 2012	Apr 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014
	(Short-term) 14 to 60 days	<1 st Call> 3-7 Sep, 2012	Apr 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014
		<2 nd Call> 2-10 May, 2013	Oct 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014
	(Short-term S) 7 to 30 days	<1 st Call> 3-7 Sep, 2012	Apr 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014
		<2 nd Call> 2-10 May, 2013	Oct 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014

※1 These deadlines are for the head of the host institution to submit the application to JSPS Head Office; the time frames for applicants (host researchers) to submit their applications are normally earlier.

※2 Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan during these periods.

Upcoming JSPS Events:

The 1st Sweden-Japan Fellowship/Research Network

The poster for 'The 1st Japan-Sweden fellowship/research network' event features a blue header with the Swedish and Japanese flags. The main text is in black and white, with a red box highlighting the 'PROGRAM' section. The event is scheduled for September 20, 2012, from 17:30 to 19:30, with a welcome drink at 17:30 and program start at 18:00. The venue is the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA). Participants include Japanese researchers in Sweden, alumni members of the Japan Society for the promotion of science, Swedish researchers interested in Japan, and Japanese governmental scholarship fellows. The program includes a welcome address by Staffan Normark, a short presentation by JSPS alumni and Japanese researchers, and mingling with sushi and drink. Registration is free of charge, and the deadline is September 14, 2012. Logos for KVA, JSPS, and the Japanese Embassy in Sweden are at the bottom.

The 1st Japan-Sweden fellowship/research network

■ **Date :**
September 20, 2012
17:30 – 19:30
Welcome Drink 17:30-
Program Start 18:00-

■ **Venue :**
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)
<http://www.kva.se/en/contact/>

■ **Participants :**
-Japanese researchers in Sweden
-Alumni members of Japan Society for the promotion of science
-Swedish researchers interested in Japan
-Japanese governmental scholarship fellows

● **Welcome address**
-Staffan Normark , Permanent Secretary
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
-Yoshiaki Fujii , Director
JSPS Stockholm office
-Yoshiki Watanabe, Ambassador
Embassy of Japan (short speech at beginning of mingling)

● **Short presentation**
-JSPS Alumni member
-Japanese researcher
-Japanese scholarship fellow

● **Mingling**
-Sushi
-Drink

To register : <http://www.kva.se/en/Kalendariumlista/Event/20120920-426>
Deadline : 14 September 2012 Registration is free of charge

Date: Thursday 20 September, 2012
17:30-19:30

Venue: Royal Swedish Academy of Science
(KVA)

Pre-registration is necessary:
<http://www.kva.se/sv/Kalendariumlista/Event/?eventId=426>

Deadline: 14 September 2012

Free registration and participation for
-Japanese researchers in Sweden
-Alumni members of JSPS
-Swedish researchers interested in Japan
-Japanese governmental scholarship fellows

Colloquium

Date: Tuesday 23 October, 2012

Venue: Karolinska Institutet

Theme: Current Concepts in Regulation of Metabolism, cell Differentiation and Function

New-JSPS Stockholm Staff



My name is Mari Nakashima, and I started working at JSPS Stockholm Office in the beginning of April 2012. I have earlier worked at the educational promotion division at Kyoto university in Japan and this is my first time to stay and work abroad. I will do my best while working here and would meanwhile like to learn many things about international research collaboration between Nordic and Baltic countries and Japan through JSPS Stockholm Office activities. (*JSPS Stockholm*).



My name is Hanna Löfman and I started working at JSPS Stockholm in the beginning of September 2012. I have previously studied Japan-related subjects at Heidelberg, Stockholm and Kyoto Universities and Political Science with a focus on Security at the Swedish National Defence College. I have a special interest in Japanese society and history, and have lived in Japan for extended periods.

I have a keen interest in developing mutual research ties between Japan, Scandinavia and the Baltic States, as these would benefit greatly from extended cooperation in an increasingly interconnected and mutually dependent world. (*JSPS Stockholm*).



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