



Japan: the Horned Islands

2013 Spring

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Considering the environmental problems and nuclear powers

By JSPS Stockholm Office Director Yoshiaki Fujii

After spending one year in Stockholm, you will find that Stockholm is a very livable town. As two-storied buses, Double-Deckers are well-known in London, so tandem buses are busily crisscrossing the town of Stockholm. The network of subways is very well developed and you can go wherever you want by making appropriate connections between public transportations of bus and subway. In addition, since the ticket is common between the two transportations and is good within one hour of use no matter how many times you may make connections, it is very convenient to use. Moreover, cars that enter the city during daytime in weekdays are to some degree limited due to traffic tax, so an awful traffic jam rarely happens. In winter, however, living in Stockholm is quite tough with extremely short daylight and horrible coldness. Most winters in Stockholm have quite a lot of snow, and the roads and pavements can be very slippery. To prevent traffic accidents, gravels are spread out on the ground. Snow-melting agents such as salts are of limited use, because they are not good for the environment. Instead, gravels are scattered every time it snows. When the snow melts and turns into a slush, the pavement becomes muddy, crunchy and difficult to walk on. Nevertheless, eco-friendly gravel is given a priority in Stockholm. In the spring, when snow is thawing usually in April, all the roads in Stockholm are cleaned thoroughly, all gravels are wiped off by cleaning cars and you will realize that winter is gone and spring has come by recognizing how easy the pavement becomes to walk on.

In Japan, environmental problems were initiated in pursuit of the causes of human diseases. When pollution-caused diseases such as Minamata disease and Itai-Itai disease were increased, they generated serious social problems. In comparison, in Sweden, the environmental problems were raised, when the natural environments were found damaged. Acid rain, which was first reported in 1872, about 100 years after the Industrial Revolution in England, was clarified as a cause of the damages in the natural environments such as corpses of fish floating in the lakes and defoliation of trees in the forests in Sweden. Through his work for 10 years starting from 1957, Dr. S. Oden, a soil scientist later known as father of the acid rain study, revealed that the acid rainfall in Sweden was due to combustion derivatives of nitrogen and sulfur in the fossil fuels which were transported in the air from the central and eastern Europe. Thus, the problem of acid rain has not been a problem in a single Nordic country, but has been known as an international problem since early period. In around 1979, about 9000 out of 85000 lakes and marshes were acidified by the acid rainfall in Sweden and were neutralized by spreading of quicklime. In Japan, the surveillance study on the acid rain began in 1983 and observed that acid rain occurred at a similar level as it did in Europe at that time. The excellent environmental monitoring system in Sweden has been well known for the fact that the radioactive pollution in the air was first detected in Sweden two days after the nuclear accident of Chernobyl in April, 1987 and was made public worldwide.

Incidentally, the air pollution due to the Fukushima nuclear accident that happened two years ago was also detected by the air filter Observatory in Stockholm, nine days after the hydrogen explosion of the reactor building.

Sweden is known to have focused on the development of nuclear power from early period to get out of dependency on the fossil fuels and to secure the increasing energy supply. Its nuclear technology has been placed at the forefront of the world since 1960. Sweden is one of the few countries in the world that have developed a nuclear reactor for power generation without technical support from the United States. Although the construction of the nuclear plant had begun since 1970s, a nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in the United States that occurred in 1979, reinforced the voice against the nuclear power plants, resulting in the national referendum held in 1980, subsequently, followed by the Parliament resolution that the nuclear power plants should be abolished by 2010, 30 years after the decision. However, when the risk of the global warming was generally recognized and its cause was known to be due to the emission of the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide derived from burning of the fossil fuels around the end of 1980s, the deadline of the abolition of the nuclear power plants was withdrawn in 1997 and a new policy that only the outdated nuclear reactors should be rebuilt was approved in 2010. It was a Swedish chemist, Svante Arrhenius who revealed the greenhouse effects of carbon dioxide for the first time in 1896. He is very famous for formulating the activation energy of chemical reaction and the electrolyte theory.

Why do Swedish people withdraw the once decided total abolition of the nuclear power plant and change to maintain it? Swedish people choose to use clean energy as much as possible by promoting the nuclear energy policy rather than to exacerbate the pollution of natural environments by depending on the fossil fuels. In other words, Swedish people place a priority to breaking away from dependence on fossil fuels rather than nuclear power for preservation of the natural environments. When thinking of the situation in Japan, it was somewhat surprising that the public opinion that was in favor of the promotion of nuclear power plants to generate clean energy have changed so radically to the denuclearization of energy sources upon the Fukushima nuclear accident. It is very regrettable to think that there would not have happened such a disastrous nuclear accident, if the countermeasures against Tsunami had been taken a little more adequately and securely. Given the impact on ecosystem and recent abnormal climate caused by the global warming, immediate denuclearization and increasing dependency on the fossil fuels for the power supply may be a difficult choice for Japan, taken into consideration that the fossil fuels are far more consumed as energy source in Japan than in Sweden. Even if Japan finally shifts to denuclearization of the energy supply, we should discuss and consider with a cool mind how we can substitute renewable energy for nuclear power.

SAC Activity Seminar FY 2012, *ICT-ethics Sweden-Japan*

The FY 2012 SAC Activity Seminar was held at Linköping University on March 8th 2013 and went by the name *ICT-ethics Sweden – Japan*. The seminar was a joint initiative of the Centre for Applied Ethics (CTE) University of Linköping and the Centre for Business Information Ethics (CBIE) at Meiji University Tokyo. Speakers based in Sweden were from Linköping University, and Uppsala University. Invited key-note speaker was Professor Kiyoshi Murata of Meiji University Tokyo. Recurring topics in all presentations were the meaning and value of privacy, autonomy and democracy in relation to ICT-based systems and whether or not ICT-systems and services empower or reduce human agency. Further, JSPS Director Yoshiaki Fujii presented an introduction of JSPS and its activities in Sweden.

The day-long event attracted some 30 participants from Linköping University, Meiji University and from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm and the talks gave rise to stimulating discussions. After the symposium, the presentations will be combined into a booklet and published during spring/summer 2013.



Participants at the SAC Activity Seminar ICT-ethics, Sweden-Japan.

1st All Finland-Japan Alumni meeting

A “First Finland-Japan All Alumni meeting” was held on March 13th 2013 at the Helsinki University premises, and jointly arranged by JSPS Stockholm, Embassy of Japan in Finland, The Finnish Institute in Japan and Hokkaido University Helsinki office. The main theme of the meeting was “Research and Study Possibilities in Japan” and totally 77 persons signed up. The first part included speakers from Embassy of Japan, Finnish Institute and Academy of Finland on topics including established possibilities for research and cooperation in Japan. One personal research experience was also shared. In the second part, JSPS Director Yoshiaki Fujii informed about JSPS activities in Finland, along with individual researchers sharing their experiences, and a representative from Tekes (Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation) who informed about risk funding for research and innovation projects for forerunners.



Participants at the 1st Finland-Japan All Alumni Meeting.

SAC Board Meeting

The JSPS SAC board meeting was held on March 22nd at the premises of JSPS Stockholm Office. Attending SAC board members were SAC Chair Ma-Li Svensson, Jan Sedzik, Göran Thor, Imre Pazsit, and Craig Wheelock. Attending JSPS staffs were Yoshiaki Fujii, Naomi Yoshizawa, Mari Nakashima and Hanna Löfman. The SAC Chair Svensson gave a progress report on FY 2012 alumni club activities and emphasized the event first Sweden-Japan Academic Network that took place in September. Sedzik shared his BRIDGE Fellowship experience from 2012 in Japan. Further, JSPS Stockholm Office Director Fujii presented the SAC activity plan for FY 2013, mentioning a second Sweden-Japan Academic Network at the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences (KVA). It was decided that a further board meeting will be held in FY 2013 in association with the second Sweden-Japan Academic Network that is scheduled for September 2013. Finally, SAC Activity Seminar applications for FY 2013 were jointly evaluated by the SAC board members together with JSPS Fujii and Deputy Director Yoshizawa, and a seminar holder elected. This year's seminar was held by Senior Researcher Jonas Olsson at SMHI in Norrköping on May 2nd on the topic 'Meteorological data for hydrological climate studies'.



Imre Pazsit, Yoshiaki Fujii, Göran Thor, Jan Sedzik, Ma-Li Svensson, and Craig Wheelock.

Japan-Sweden Science, Technology Y & Innovation Symposium *Lithium Ion Battery ~The Inception, Development and Future~*

On 7-8 March, the JSPS Stockholm Office teamed up with the Japanese Embassy in Sweden and the Chemical Society of Japan to hold Japan-Sweden Science, Technology & Innovation Symposium 2013 titled "Lithium Ion Battery (LIB), Its Inception, Development and Future." These annual symposiums are convened to widely disseminate milestone scientific and technological developments being advanced in Japan. This year's featured a presentation by LIB-inventor Dr. Akira Yoshino, Asahi Kasei Corporation, who spoke about the battery's development and its future outlook. With cooperation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and Chalmers University of Technology, the symposium was held in both Stockholm and Gothenburg.

Attending the event at the two venues were some 180 people, including university and corporate researchers and inventors, who asked questions that spanned a spectrum from scientific development to commodification. Throughout, the symposium enjoyed a friendly yet animated atmosphere.

Each year the office holds these symposiums on different themes in an effort to strengthen Japan's persona within Sweden's academic community.

SAC Activity Seminar: Symposium *ICT-ethics Sweden-Japan*

by Elin Palm

The symposium *ICT-ethics Sweden – Japan*, sponsored by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science, was successfully held at Linköping University March 8th 2013. This symposium was a joint initiative of the Centre for Applied Ethics (CTE) at the University of Linköping, Sweden and the Centre for Business Information Ethics (CBIE) at Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan and included speakers from Linköping University, Meiji University Tokyo and Uppsala University. Some of the main topics recurring in all presentations during the one-day seminar were: the meaning and value of privacy, autonomy and democracy in relation to ICT-based systems and whether or not ICT-systems and services empower or reduce human agency.

In his key-note address Professor Kiyoshi Murata from Meiji University portrayed a possible identity crisis in relation to the widespread usage of surveillance regimes – a talk that stimulated vivid discussion. Rather than being conducted top-down, Murata argued, modern surveillance is rhizomatic with a large number of actors involved. Large quantities of person data is collected, processed, stored and transferred – processes that often take place without the data subjects' awareness. In their interaction with surveillance capable systems, large numbers of individuals choose to release information about themselves e.g. in social media. The ubiquitous nature of data processing implies that individuals lose control over information about themselves – in the long run, they may feel that their independence is taken over by others - a symptom unique to schizophrenia.

In a less alarming but equally important talk, Professor Karin Axelsson brought up the need for a proper inclusion of stakeholders in the development of e-government services. Questions to be addressed are: who should (not) be involved, how and why?

The convenor, Elin Palm, discussed ethical implications of a future shift in care locus from hospital-based to ICT-based home care. How should care recipients' privacy and autonomy be protected when surveillance capable technology moves in to their private domain?

By means of a set of aphorisms Assistant Professor Thomas Taro Lennerfors explored the meaning and value of "Smart" and "Smart homes", offering different examples and angles on what smart can mean. What is smart and why and how are individuals affected by smart technologies?

Professor Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos focused on two notions central to Information and Communication Technology - privacy and security – and a potential conflict between these values. How should these values be balanced in an ethically sound way?

In her presentation Ryoko Asai explored the role of new media in emergency situations, starting out from Japanese authorities and citizens' usage of social media and twitter during the Fukushima crisis. She found that new media can facilitate and support dialogue in the political sphere.

The day-long event attracted some 30 participants from Linköping University, Meiji University and from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm and the talks gave rise to stimulating discussions. After the symposium, the presentations will be combined into a booklet and published during spring/summer 2013. In conclusion, the convenor wishes to express her gratitude to the JSPS for the generous support and success of this symposium!

Elin Palm

Linköping University March 27th 2013

The first Finland All Alumni Seminar

by Tero Salomaa

“First Finland-Japan All Alumni meeting” was held 13th of March at the Helsinki University premises. Seminar was arranged by JSPS Stockholm, Embassy of Japan in Finland, The Finnish Institute in Japan and Hokkaido University Helsinki office. All JSPS, MEXT etc. alumni were invited to listen speakers on “Research and Study Possibilities in Japan”. Totally 77 persons registered.

The first part was held in Finnish. First speaker, Ms. Henna Tanskanen, Embassy of Japan, explained Researchers’ scholarships, which are applied through the Embassy. MEXT (Japanese studies, undergraduate, research student) scholarships were explained. For “Research Student scholarship” year 2012 Embassy got 6 applicants and it was granted for 2 Finns. Japan Foundation’s program were explained thoroughly. 2nd speaker was Dr. Laitinen, Finnish Institute in Japan. He explained background of the Finnish Institutes (17 worldwide) and history of FIJ. Priority areas for years 2012-2014 are : higher education, co-operation with East Asia, Architecture & design. Some projects: Co-operation on Built Environment between Finland, Japan and China, Finnish Glass Exhibition (2013). Finnish Japanese Alumni Network (FJAN) was established 2010.

3rd speaker was from Academy of Finland: Science advisor Ms. Ellmen. For Academy of Finland Japan is one of the priority countries. Academy has fellowships for PhD students (12+12 months), Post Doc visiting fellowships (2 weeks – 1 year) , JSPS Fellowships, etc. Ellmen explained also coming applications (2013 ICT project with JST etc.).

Before coffee-break Mr. Joonas Kirsi give a talk on his exchange experiences in Yamagata, year 2007-2008. Mr. Kirsi is also head of JMSA (Japan Monkasho Scholarship Alumni Finland).

During coffee break, totally 30 minutes, spinach-pie and sweets were served. This was perfect opportunity to make contacts.



Second part was held in English. 1st speaker, Director Fujii, gave very informative presentation on JSPS activities in Finland. 2nd speaker, PhD (JSPS-Fellow), Mr. Kujansuu explained his exchange experiences in Beijing and Japan. Mr. Kujansuu enrolled to Beijing Forestry University year 1997. Entrance exams were in Chinese, but he was able to get in! From 2002 he studied at Gifu University and his main theme was “Climatic responses of Siberian larch trees” and he committed three trips to Siberia. From 2005 he had JSPS scholarship. From 2012 he has worked at Helsinki University.

Third speaker, Mr. Munther explained “Tekes role in international cooperation”. Tekes (**Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation**) offers risk funding for research and innovation projects. Tekes funding is targeted for forerunners: for Finnish companies, Universities and research institutions. Budget (2012) was 554 million euros and it has 370 personnel. Especially “Tekes innovation funding for research organizations” was really interesting for the seminar participants.

Last speakers, Dr. Kankuri’s project was maybe most “ambitious”. It combines three separate research units: Hannover Medical School, University of Helsinki (Institute of Biomedicine) and Osaka University Graduate school of medicine. Project has funding from JST, JSPS, Academy of Finland etc. and it has already helped some patients for the treatment of cardiac failure. Dr. Kankuri emphasized collaboration between research institutions. Also hard work is needed to get suitable funding.

Activities of the Sweden Alumni Club during FY 2012

The *SAC Plan of Action for FY 2012* was presented at the SAC board meeting in February 2012. During the meeting, attending SAC board members along with the JSPS Director and Deputy Director agreed on plans of renewal for a number of alumni club procedures. Among those, a new form of SAC Activity seminars was introduced with the purpose to attract SAC regular members as seminar holders. Another proposal was given for an annual research event between Sweden and Japan. The purpose of this new research-related event is foremost to consolidate existing research collaboration and provide a platform for building future cooperation in research activities between the two countries. The plans became reality with the first joint Sweden-Japan research event was held on September 20th 2012 in association with the SAC General Assembly. The event, known as the first Sweden-Japan Academic Network was held at the distinguished premises of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA). The event gathered around 130 participants of whom many were researchers. Administrators and co-sponsors of the event were KVA, JSPS Stockholm Office and Embassy of Japan.

Further, the non-profit organization Japanska Föreningen in Stockholm provided information on Japan-related activities in Sweden. Invited speakers were Dr. Ma-Li Svensson, business researcher Mr. Niklas Modig and Professor Tomohiko Sakao. After some inspiring exchanges of experiences, the much appreciated sushi buffet proved to be one of the given highlights of the evening.

Between November 2012 and January 2013, three SAC-members awarded BRIDGE Fellowship Program conducted research-related visits to their Japanese host Universities and Institutions. The researchers were Professor Jan Sedzik (KTH), Associate Professor Niclas Solin (Linköping University) and Associate Professor Ashutosh Tiwari (Linköping University).

The next novelty to the SAC Plan of Action came with the SAC Activity Seminar which was held on March 8th on the subject *ICT Ethics* at Linköping University. Organizer was PhD. Elin Palm of Linköping University and the approximate number of attendants was 35.



The first Sweden-Japan Academic Network event at KVA.



BRIDGE Fellow Ashutosh Tiwari and research colleagues in Japan

Japan-Sweden Science & Technology Innovation Symposium 2013 by Charles A. Marken, Corporate Communications, Asahi Kasei Corp.

The Japan-Sweden Science & Technology Innovation Symposium 2013 was held in Stockholm at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) on March 7, 2013, and in Gothenburg at Chalmers University of Technology on March 8, 2013, organized by the Chemical Society of Japan and Asahi Kasei Corporation, with support from JSPS, the Embassy of Japan in Stockholm, the Sweden-Japan Foundation, and IVA.

The subject of the symposium was “Lithium Ion Battery: The Inception, Development and Future,” featuring a lecture by Dr. Akira Yoshino, the inventor of the lithium-ion battery, on the course of development of the lithium-ion battery and outlook for the future.

The symposium in Stockholm was attended by some 100 people, largely from universities but also with a significant representation from industry and the remainder including personnel of government, consultancies, and NGOs. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Edvard Fleetwood, Secretary General of the Sweden-Japan Foundation, His Excellency Mr. Yoshiki Watanabe, Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Nobuyuki Kawashima, Executive Director of the Chemical Society of Japan. Prof. Kristina Edström of Uppsala University joined Dr. Yoshino with a lecture on the family of chemistries for lithium-ion batteries and the many possibilities they offer. The lectures were followed by a discussion session moderated by Mr. Bo Normark, Chairman of IVA’s Division for Electrical Engineering.

The symposium in Gothenburg was attended by some 75 people, mainly students and faculty of Chalmers but also including many representatives of industry. Prof. Aleksandar Matic of Chalmers and Mr. Nobuyuki Kawashima made the opening remarks.

Prof. Per Jacobsson of Chalmers joined Dr. Yoshino with a lecture on new materials and concepts for lithium batteries. The lectures were followed by a discussion session moderated by Prof. Aleksandar Matic and a poster session highlighting the many areas of related research being done at Chalmers.

Participants at both Stockholm and Gothenburg indicated interest in the potential for the lithium-ion battery to increasingly contribute to solutions to the world’s energy and environmental challenges based on advanced research to further heighten battery performance and safety characteristics. The hosting and supporting organizations hope to hold similar symposiums highlighting Japanese technology and innovation in the environment, energy, and other fields of interest in the future.



The discussion session at IVA



The symposium at Chalmers

BRIDGE Fellows FY 2012 in FAC & SAC

Timo Kuuluvainen



Title: Associate Professor
Institution: Dept. of Forest Sciences,
University of Helsinki, Finland
Period of stay: 2012.09.16-2012.10.25
Place of stay: University of Ryukyu's

Comment: "My stay in Japan was very fruitful
in creating a research network
for future collaboration"

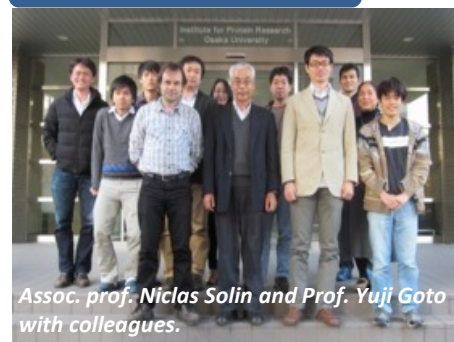
Jan Sedzik



Title: Professor
Institution: Royal School of Technology (KTH)
Period of stay: 2012.11.26-2013.01.09
Place of stay: University of Tokyo

Comment: "This was my 6th visit to Japan fully
supported by the JSPS – over the
period of last 16 years. During this
whole period I was in close contact
with my previous JSPS hosts and
collaborators."

Niclas Solin



Title: Associate Professor
Institution: IFM, Linköping University
Period of stay: 2012.11.01-2012.11.19
Place of stay: Osaka University

Comment: "The stay supported by JSPS gave me
opportunity to communicate with
expertise researchers. This provided
me with lots of inspiration regarding
my future work."

Ashutosh Tiwari


























Title: Associate Professor
Institution: IFM, Linköping University
Period of stay: 2012.12.01-2013.01.14
Place of stay: National Institute for Materials Science,
Tuskuba

Comment: "The visit basically focused to
strengthen academic activity between
Sweden and Japan via research
collaboration and annual bilateral
Sweden-Japan seminars on material
science and technology at Linköping
University."

Academic Information





















- SAC Contact Persons A-H

For information about research exchange, life in Japan and application procedures, you are welcome to contact the Swedish Alumni Club's contact persons. There might be someone from your university or research field.

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Up-coming seminar/symposium

Sweden-Japan National Young Academy(NYA) Meeting

Date: 12-13 June

Place: KVA

Sweden-Japan Collaboration Symposium 2013

Date: 3-4 June

Place: Lund University

More details can be found here ⇒ <http://www.jsps-sto.com/>.

For inquiries, please contact us at info@jsps-sto.com.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Foreign Researchers (Standard).

- **KVA** Application deadline: June 14, 2013 (all fields)
- **VINNOVA** Application deadline: June 28, 2013 (in the fields of Environment, Medicine and Health, Natural Science Technology, Society and Culture (Applied Science).

Application forms available at the JSPS Homepage <http://www.jsps-sto.com>.

Application conditions at the JSPS Tokyo Homepage;

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html#long>

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