

JSPS Stockholm Newsletter

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Swedish Style Innovation

By Director Hideo Akutsu, JSPS Stockholm Office

It is calm and comfortable on holidays in Stockholm. Although the sun shines through clouds, people are enjoying the faint stream of sunlight in parks. Accumulation of vitamin D under sunlight is an essential element of the life cycle in Nordic countries. Furthermore, families with kids shed heart-warming atmosphere to the scenery. Families with twin babies or siblings sharing the same double baby strollers are a common sight. Even for birds, more couples seem to carry babies in Stockholm than in Japan. It is a surprise to me. When I was working as a postdoctoral fellow in Switzerland, people talked about a population explosion, referring to non-European birth rate. To my knowledge, Sweden was one of the countries with the lowest birth rate at that time. Nowadays, however, Swedes are trying to have a five-kids family according to a Swedish friend of mine. Statistic tells us that the birth rate of Sweden was the lowest in 1999 to be 1.5 and was improved to 1.89 in 2013. In contrast, the Japanese birth rate is 1.43 in 2013. Surprisingly, the percentage of housewives is only 2% in Sweden. Social supports for the working women with children and financial supports for child-raising families might be working well. When we visited a state institution and had a discussion with our counterpart, a lady in the group stood up at 4 pm and excused herself for picking up her kid. We continued our discussion as it had been. Everything was so smooth. I felt that raising lovely kids is really a nationwide project in Swedish style innovation.

Innovation is an important keyword in Sweden as can be seen in the name of VINNOVA (The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems). The concept of innovation itself is not new, since it dates back to 1911. Innovation means the impact of knowledge and know-how to the production of novel social assets or values. Recent examples were the internet and smart phones, which drastically changed the human life and industry. Since their impacts have been so huge, every country is now forced to work on the innovation. Sweden is always in the top group of the global innovation index ranking (No. 2 in 2013). However, the Swedish style is a little bit different from other countries' strategy. Usually the innovation project is carried out in a top-down manner to economize the budget, because it covers such a wide range as research, development of technology, and industrial application. According to VINNOVA, however, the bottom-up process is also important in the Swedish style innovation. Since Swedish global enterprises are moving out to foreign countries, their contribution to the domestic research activity and employment is not significant enough. Therefore, the role of medium and small enterprises and public sectors are getting important now. Their needs would drive the unique innovation. The needs can be caught only through a bottom-up process. While the budget of VINNOVA is 6.8% of whole R&D budget of the government, the budget for the basic research is 63.3% (in 2012). Therefore, collaboration with the basic research is indispensable for them as well as that with the R&D in the global enterprises. To implement the multidimensional mission, VINNOVA is allowed to carry out free-hand operations under a policy of the government. It seems to be working quite efficiently in maximizing the passion and ability of the limited human resources.

The other keyword in the Swedish style innovation is "sustainable society". Although this key word is already shared by the international society, the concept can be different depending on a country. Sometimes there is a conflict with

economic growth. Like other advanced countries, the competitiveness in the global market under the threat of emerging countries is also a serious issue for Sweden. Nevertheless, they are trying to build up a competitive economy based on a sustainable society. According to VINNOVA, the sustainable growth consists of economic sustainability, social sustainability, and ecological sustainability. The leading role of Sweden in the efforts for the global sustainability is well-known. They think that the economic growth should be built up without damaging health, climate, and ecosystems. To achieve this without jeopardizing welfare of a growing global population, innovation and use of new technologies are crucial. Research and development on these issues would also increase the competitiveness of the private business sector. In social sustainability, the active involvement of human resources in best possible way is important. This includes the measures for an aging society and declining population. Namely, the lovely kids in parks and on streets are an important element for a sustainable society and innovation. Some people are skeptical about the Swedish style, indicating it being unrealistic. In fact, Sweden still owes 38% of electricity to nuclear power stations (in 2012), although they decided to shut down all of them by 2010 in 1980. They amended their decision in 1997 and 2010. It is difficult to foresee if the Swedish style can survive in the cruel global economy. At least, Sweden is still enjoying its high international competitiveness as the fifth place (IMD) in 2014 and fostering fresh generation expected to join this stream.



The 2014 Nobel Prize Laureates

In October 2014, the 2014 Nobel Prize Laureates were announced. The Prize in Physics was awarded jointly to Prof. Isamu Akasaki (Meijo University and Nagoya University), Prof. Hiroshi Amano (Nagoya University) and Prof. Shuji Nakamura (University of California, Santa Barbara) for inventing the blue light-emitting diode (LED), an invention of greatest benefit to mankind. With the invention of blue LEDs, white light is created in a new way and is more energy-saving, environment-friendly compared to older light sources and is used in TVs, cell phones, displays etc.

On May 21, Prof. Isamu Akasaki was invited to give a

lecture about the invention of blue light-emitting diodes at the seminar "Blue LED, scientific breakthrough with real world impact". The seminar was held at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and co-organized by Meijo University, Chemical Society of Japan, the Embassy of Japan, Sweden-Japan Foundation, and JSPS Stockholm Office. The seminar was attended by a number of researchers from all over Sweden.

**A detailed report written by Prof. Satoshi Kamiyama of Meijo University, can be found in the previous issue (vol. 17) of JSPS Stockholm Office's English newsletter.*

The complete list of 2014 Nobel Prize Laureates

Physiology or Medicine

John O'Keefe, May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser, "for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain."

Physics

Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura, "for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources."

Chemistry

Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell and William E. Moerner, "for the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy."

Literature

Patrick Modiano, "for the art of memory with which he has evoked the most ungraspable human destinies and uncovered the life-world of the occupation."

Peace

Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai, "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education."

Economic Sciences

Jean Tirole, "for his analysis of market power and regulation."



Prof. Isamu Akasaki, Prof. Hiroshi Amano and Prof. Shuji Nakamura announced as 2014's Physics Laureates.



Prof. Isamu Akasaki at the "Blue LED, scientific breakthrough with real world impact" held at IVA on May 21, 2014. Watch the seminar online at:

<http://www.iva.se/seminarium/blue-led-scientific-breakthrough-with-real-world-impact/>

Two KVA-JSPS Seminars held with Prof. Yoshinori Tokura and Prof. Emiko Ochiai

Since 2009, JSPS Stockholm Office has together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) organized seminars with Japanese lecturers, and two seminars for FY2014 have been held.

The first seminar was held in August with invited speaker Prof. Yoshinori Tokura, Director of Center for Emergent Matter Science (CEMS), RIKEN, and Department of Applied Physics, University of Tokyo. The topic of the seminar was “Magnetism and Topology”, and Prof. Tokura gave lectures at Uppsala University on August 21, and Chalmers University of Technology on August 25. Interesting Q&A sessions were held with the participating researchers and students.

Accompanied by Director Hideo Akutsu, Prof. Tokura visited the Embassy of Japan on August 22, and met with Ambassador Seiji Morimoto to discuss the academic exchange between Sweden and Japan.

**A report written by Prof. Tokura can be found on page 10.*

The second seminar of 2014, was held September 16-17 with invited speaker Prof. Emiko Ochiai, Kyoto University, Director of Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU). Prof. Ochiai held lectures at Örebro University and Stockholm University. The theme of the seminar was “Family, Gender and the Public and Private Spheres”, and participants researchers and students of various nationalities.



Speech by Prof. Emiko Ochiai, Kyoto University.

New Biology and Technologies in Medical Science



For the purpose of promoting scientific exchange between young researchers in Sweden and Japan, JSPS Stockholm Office supported Prof. Keiji Miyazawa, University of Yamanashi, and Prof. Takeshi Imamura, Ehime University, with organizing young scientist seminars on the theme “New Biology and Technologies in Medical Science”.

The first seminar, “Symposium on Molecular Biomedicine” was held at Uppsala University on September 2. Opening remarks were given by Prof. Aristidis Moustakas, and Director Hideo Akutsu introduced JSPS programs and activities.

Presentations were given by 3 young Japanese researchers and 4 researchers of Uppsala University, and the presentations were followed by participants engaging in a lively discussion.

On September 4, the “Mini Symposium New biology and Technologies in Medical Science” was held at Karolinska Institutet. Following the opening remarks and an introduction of JSPS given by Director Akutsu, 5 of the Japanese researchers and 3 researchers from Karolinska Institutet gave presentations and after that participants exchanged opinions. The host of the seminar, Prof. Arne Östman, offered closing remarks.

The third seminar, “Young Scientist Seminar on Molecular Biomedicine”, was held on September 5 at Lund University and hosted by Prof. Kristian Pietras. Two researchers from both sides gave presentations and participants engaged in a relaxed exchange of opinions.

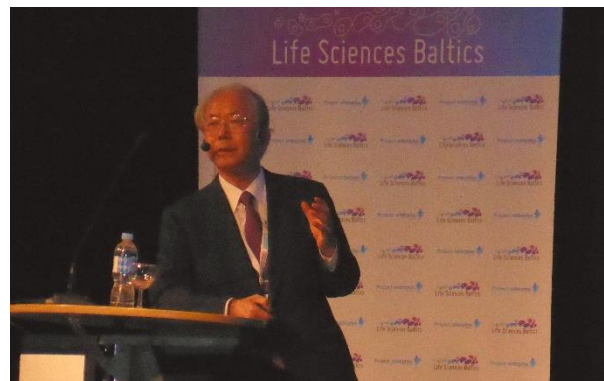
**A report by Prof. Miyazawa and Prof. Imamura can be found on page 11.*

JSPS Stockholm Office attended the Life Science Baltics Forum 2014 in Lithuania

On September 10-12, JSPS Stockholm Office Director Hideo Akutsu and Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo attended the Life Sciences Baltics Forum 2014 held in Vilnius, Lithuania, an international forum organized by Enterprise Lithuania, sponsored by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, Bioforum, and Kaleidoscope.

On the first plenary session on "Regenerative Medicine", JSPS Executive Director Makoto Asashima, gave a lecture on "Organogenesis and Regeneration Studies in Vertebrates Including Human Cells".

The forum's attending participants of more than 800 people from over 30 countries included Nobel Laureates, world-class biotechnology, pharmaceutical- and medical device experts from around the world.



JSPS Executive Director Makoto Asashima.

Sweden-Kyoto Symposium



On September 11-12, a collaboration symposium between Kyoto University, Stockholm University, Uppsala University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Karolinska Institutet was held, consisting of 10 diverse parallel sessions on life and health sciences, ecology, technology, and engineering. The symposium was attended by 55 lecturers from Kyoto University and 77 from the four Swedish Universities.

The first day consisted of a joint session held at Stockholm University. Opening addresses and introductions of the 5 universities were given by Vice-chancellor Astrid Söderbergh Widding of Stockholm University, Executive Vice-President Michiaki Mishima of Kyoto University, Pro Vice-Chancellor Kerstin Tham of Karolinska Institutet, President Peter Gudmundson of KTH

Royal Institute of Technology, and Vice-chancellor Eva Åkesson of Uppsala University. JSPS Stockholm Office Director Akutsu provided with information on JSPS activities and the JSPS Fellowship Programs.

Following the introductions, a keynote lecture was given by Prof. Gunnar Andersson and Assoc. Prof. Livia Sz. Oláh of Stockholm University's Demography Unit, on the topic of demographic challenges. Prof. Mathias Uhlén, Director for Science for Life Laboratories (SciLifeLab), presented the universities' collaborative project, the SciLifeLab. The 2nd keynote lecture of the day was given by Prof. Susumu Kitagawa, Director of Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS), Kyoto University, on what we can do using nanospace science.

At the end of the first day, a reception hosted by the Embassy of Japan and JSPS Stockholm Office was held at the premises of the Ambassador's Residence. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto gave welcoming remarks and introduced the Embassy of Sweden in Japan's former Ambassador Lars Vargö, and mentioned that he is an alumnus of Kyoto University.

With 150 participants, the symposium was a success and provided a valuable opportunity for the participating universities to consider the possibilities of future collaboration in education and research.

**A report by Prof. Tetsuo Sawaragi, Kyoto University, can be found on page 13.*

JSPS Stockholm Office attended the Denmark-Japan Workshop on Bioenergy

On September 12, Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo attended the Denmark-Japan Workshop on Bioenergy in Odense, Denmark. The workshop was organized by the Danish Agency for Science and Technology and Innovation (DASTI). Director Akutsu introduced JSPS Fellowship programs, Bilateral Programs, Core-to-Core Program and the activities of the Stockholm Office.

After the workshop, Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo met with representatives of DASTI, Innovations Fonden, and Embassy of Denmark, Japan to discuss future collaboration.



Uppsala University-Tokyo Institute of Technology Joint Symposium: Breakthroughs in Science & Technology for the 21st Century



On September 16-17, the Uppsala University-Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) joint symposium "Breakthroughs in Science & Technology for the 21st Century" was held at the Ångström laboratories in Uppsala University. The purpose of this symposium was to strengthen the collaboration and exchange of researchers between the two universities. The theme of the symposium was divided into several sessions on Electronics and Materials Science, Physics/Nuclear Science & Technology, Life-science & BioTechnology, Global Energy & Future Blue Sky possibilities, and Renewable Energy.

Welcome address was given by Vice-chancellor Eva Åkesson, Uppsala University, and a speech toward colla-

boration between Uppsala University and Tokyo Tech was given by Dr. Yoshinao Mishima, President of Tokyo Tech. In addition, Director Hideo Akutsu offered welcoming remarks and spoke about JSPS programs and activities. Following Director Akutsu's speech, former chairman of the Nobel committee, Prof. Joseph Nordgren, Pro Vice-chancellor, spoke about "Tools for Quality in Science - Faculty, Academy and Infrastructure". The first lecture was given by Prof. Hideo Hosono, Tokyo Tech, with the theme of "Discovery of Iron-based Superconductors and Creation of RT-stable Electride". A total of 12 speakers from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and 16 from Uppsala University gave lectures followed by interesting discussions.

The joint symposium was concluded with the signing of the Letter of Intention and Memoranda of Understanding, to promote a more cooperative relationship between the two universities.

**A report by Prof. Takashi Tatsumi, Executive Vice President for Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology, can be found on page 14.*

The 1st Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Finland

On September 18, 2014, the 1st Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Finland was held at the University of Helsinki. The network meeting was organized by the Embassy of Japan in Finland, Hokkaido University Helsinki office and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Opening remarks were given by the Mr. Yoshiaki Miwa, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Prof. Shinichiro Tabata, Director of the Hokkaido University Helsinki Office, and JSPS Stockholm Office's Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo.

The purpose of the network meeting was to give an opportunity for Japanese researchers to network, to encourage future collaboration and friendships. The network meeting was attended by 45 Japanese researchers with various academic degrees and fields of research, sharing their views on research in Finland.

**A report by Ms. Sanae Ito, Ph.D. student, University of Helsinki, can be found on page 15.*

Dialogue between Japan-Finland-Russia and a kick-off meeting for a Japan-Finland Bilateral Program held in Helsinki

On September 22, a meeting on research cooperation between Finland, Japan and Russia was held in Helsinki. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming launch of the universities of Turku, Hokkaido and St. Petersburg trilateral academic research collaboration on the Arctic. The meeting was organized by Hokkaido University Helsinki Office, the Embassy of Japan in Finland and JSPS Stockholm Office. Welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Kenji Shinoda, followed by introductions of each university and their commitment to Arctic research presented by Prof. Lauri Ojala, University of Turku, Prof. Konstantin Krotov, St. Petersburg University, and Prof. Shinichiro Tabata, Hokkaido

University.

Following the dialogue, a kick-off meeting for a Japan-Finland Bilateral Program was held. Prof. Tabata is a representative of the research project "Russia's final energy frontier-Sustainability challenges of the Russian Far North" which unites the forces of top Finnish and Japanese experts on Russian energy policy.

The number of participants in the meetings were 18 and included representatives from Helsinki University and graduate students.

Japan-Denmark Scholarship Information held in Copenhagen

On September 26, the Japan-Denmark Scholarship Information event was held at Copenhagen University, with the purpose to provide information on scholarship possibilities for students and researchers in Denmark.

The event was organized by the Embassy of Japan in Denmark, Tokai University Alumni Association, Denmark and JSPS Stockholm Office. Representatives from each organizing institution presented several scholarship programs for study and research in Japan, and alumni from each institution shared their own experiences as scholars, encouraging the participants to go to Japan.



Speech by Dr. Michael Arvedlund on his experience as a JSPS fellow.

RIKEN-Karolinska Institutet-SciLifeLab Joint Symposium - New Era of Life Science

On October 16, 2014, the RIKEN-Karolinska Institutet-SciLifeLab joint Symposium - New Era of Life Science was held at Gamma Conference, Karolinska Institutet.

The joint symposium brought together top researchers from the RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies (CLST), Karolinska Institutet and Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab), with the aim to identify mutually beneficial research topics for collaboration in the fields of Bioimaging and Genomics and their applications to improve health. Seven lecturers from CLST including Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe, and six lecturers from Karolinska Institutet delivered speeches on the topic. Director Hideo Akutsu explained and introduced the programs and activities of JSPS for the participating students and researchers.



Lecture by CLST Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe.

JSPS Stockholm Office attended the Hokkaido University Catalysis Research Center - Stockholm University Joint Symposium



On October 30-31, 2014, JSPS Stockholm Office attended the "CRC-SU Joint International Symposium on Chemical Theory for Complex Systems - Interplay between Theory and Experiments: New trends in Catalysis", held at Stockholm University.

The symposium was a collaboration between Hokkaido University Catalysis Research Center (CRC) and Stockholm University's Department of Organic Chemistry. This was the third collaboration symposium on Catalysis between Hokkaido University Catalysis Research Center and overseas universities, and the aim was to achieve a dissemination of Japan's research achievements, and an exchange of ideas on Catalysis research between Japan and foreign countries. The first symposium was held in Strasbourg, France, and the second in Atlanta, USA.

This third time in Stockholm had keynote lectures by 4 speakers, including Prof. Keiji Morokuma, Kyoto University, and Prof. Masatake Haruta of Tokyo Metropolitan University, and 15 plenary speakers. A poster session was held and participants engaged in a lively exchange of opinions.

The 3rd Sweden-Japan Academic Network

On November 13, the 3rd Sweden-Japan Academic Network was held at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA), to promote and strengthen the academic exchange between the two countries. The event was jointly organized by KVA, the Embassy of Japan and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Opening remarks were given by the President of KVA, Prof. Barbara Cannon, and Ambassador Seiji Morimoto gave welcoming remarks. The keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Masayuki Nakajima, Department of Game Design, Uppsala University, with theme "My Game Research in Sweden for a Bridge between Japan and

Sweden."

The event was attended by over 100 participants including Swedish and Japanese researchers, JSPS alumni, Japanese governmental scholars, and others interested in exchange activities with Japan. The event has been held since 2012, and the interest and number of participants has increased steadily since.

The Embassy of Japan, the Japanese Association in Stockholm and JSPS had set up information booths where participants could inquire each institution on fellowships, scholarships, activities etc.



Keynote lecture by Prof. Masayuki Nakajima, Uppsala University.



Speech by Prof. Barbara Cannon, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

SAC Activity Seminar held at Örebro University



On August 28, a Sweden Alumni Club (SAC) Activity Seminar was held at Örebro University, organized by Prof. Bert van Bavel, Head of Chemistry, MTM Research Center. The purpose of the symposium was to celebrate the many years of collaboration and joint research with the Kyoto region (Kyoto University and Shimadzu Techno Research). The theme of the symposium was “New Technologies and Results for the Analysis of Persistent Pollutants and Pharmaceuticals in the Environment”. Welcome remarks were given by the Pro Vice-chancellor of Örebro University, Prof. Gunilla Lindström. Prof. Lindström told that the university has established a good contact with Japanese researchers and mentioned her experience as guest professor at Kyoto University. Director Hideo Akutsu introduced JSPS Stockholm Office, JSPS Fellowship Programs and the support of many collaboration symposia between Swedish and Japanese Universities. Invited speakers from Japan were Dr. Shin Takahashi, Assoc. Prof. of Ehime University, and Prof. Ta-

kumi Takasuga of Shimadzu Techno-Research INC.

Dr. Takahashi spoke about the human exposure assessment monitoring of POPs released from E-waste recycling activities.

Prof. Takasuga, who is an honorary doctor at Örebro University, gave a lecture on GC-HRMS Analysis for POPs and New POPs with GC-TOF/MS Techniques.

Invited speakers from Sweden were Dr. Johan Lindberg, Swetox – Swedish Toxicology Sciences Research Center, and Dr. Samira Salihovic, Uppsala University. Other speakers from Örebro University included Prof. Bert van Bavel, Assoc. Prof. Jessika Hagberg, Assoc. Prof. Anna Kärrman, and three Ph.D. students who presented their recent lab results.

The symposium was a success with many participants, and JSPS Stockholm Office encourages alumni members to apply.

Preparatory meeting for the establishment of an Alumni Club in Denmark

On September 26, a preparatory meeting for the establishment of an alumni Club in Denmark was held at the University of Copenhagen. Former JSPS fellows were invited to the meeting to discuss the alumni club. The meeting was attended by eight former fellows.

Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo explained the purpose and concept of an alumni club. Prior to the meeting, a questionnaire had been sent to fellows and Deputy Director Kawakubo presented the result. The fellows discussed the articles, organization and name of the club. It was decided that the board members' term of office will be until the 1st General Assembly, where elections will be held to select a new chair, vice-chair and board members. The term of office for the board will then be three years, and the General Assembly will be an annual event.

The fellows decided to name the club “JSPS Alumni Club Denmark”, and the following fellows were elected as board members:

- Chair: Dr. Sam K. Steffensen, Innovisor
- Vice-chair: Dr. Michael Arvedlund, AKVA Group
- Dr. Eugen Stamate, Technical University of Denmark
- Prof. Carl Winsløw, University of Copenhagen
- Assoc. Prof. Maher Abou Hachem, Technical University of Denmark
- Assoc. Prof. Anemone Platz, Aarhus University

Report on the KVA-JSPS Seminar

by Yoshinori Tokura, RIKEN / University of Tokyo

By the invitation by KVA and JSPS, I could have the occasions to give the KVA-JSPS Seminar lectures on August 21st at Uppsala University and on August 25th at Chalmers University of Technology. In January of this year, I was awarded honorary doctor by Uppsala University and visited there to attend the conferment ceremony. While this was quite an impressive experience to me, this time in the middle summer I got a totally new impression on the beautiful town of Uppsala. Prof. Claes-Göran Granqvist as well as Senior Lecturer Roland Mathieu kindly organized the Seminar at Uppsala, which started with the greeting and introduction of JSPS programs by Dr. Akutsu, Director of JSPS Stockholm Office. I gave the lecture entitled “Magnetism and Topology”, in which I laid an emphasis on the importance of concept of topology in spin (electron’s magnetic moment) textures to host novel and gigantic magneto-electronic responses from magnets. A typical example is the spin-swirling magnetic vortex, termed Skyrmion, that is composed of thousands of spins but behaves as a single nano-particle in magnets, and can be easily driven by electric current and produce the gigantic fictitious magnetic field to the flowing electrons.

I wished to share and exchange the new scientific ideas on such an emerging field of topological magnetism with Swedish scientists. My wish comes true; I could have stimulating discussion and conversation with materials scientists at Uppsala University. On the next day,

furthermore, I could have a chance to give a talk on the related topics in another workshop held at KTH in Stockholm. I would like to thank Prof. Alexander Balatsky (NORDITA) and Prof. David Haviland (KTH) for their kind arrangement of my visit and talk.

In the next week, I visited Chalmers University of Technology to give the lecture with the same title, as kindly arranged by Prof. Tord Claeson. Prof. Claeson also organized the mini-symposium on the science of magnetism and correlated electron system after the KVA-JSPS Seminar by gathering the researchers and speakers at Chalmers. There we could further deepen the discussion on the related topics. I was also benefited from the scientific discussion with many distinguished scientists at Chalmers, spending a whole day there.

In addition to all these academic activities, we could fully enjoy the wonderful summer in Sweden over the weekend, in particular thanks to the hospitality by Prof. and Mrs. Claeson. Furthermore I could also enjoy the conversation and discussion about the international academic exchange with Ambassador Morimoto and First Secretary Mr. Sato at the Japanese Embassy. I do hope we can further enhance the academic exchange between Sweden and Japan. Last but not least, I would express my thanks to Dr. Akutsu, Ms. Kawakubo, and Ms. Oe at JSPS Stockholm Office for their kind arrangement for this fruitful seminar trip.



With Uppsala University.



Young Scientist Seminars in Sweden

By Keiji Miyazawa, University of Yamanashi and Takeshi Imamura, Ehime University

It has been almost 20 years since we worked as postdoctoral fellows in Uppsala. After returning to Japan, we often visited Sweden and also invited Swedish researchers to academic meetings held in Japan, to continue scientific exchange. Without reservation, we can say that Sweden is our favorite country. In December 2013, Dr. Takeo Miyazawa, a former Director of the JSPS Stockholm Office, offered us an opportunity to organize young scientist seminars in Sweden. We then launched into preparations toward the seminars with the help of Ms. Naomi Yoshizawa, a former Deputy Director. In the beginning of September 2014, thus started a journey visiting three institutes in Sweden with five young scientists (Dr. Takaharu Okada, RIKEN; Dr. Nobuaki Takemori, Ehime University; Dr. Mako Kamiya, University of Tokyo; Dr. Yuri Shibata, University of Tokyo; Dr. Michiyuki Kano, Tohoku University).

We first visited Uppsala on Sept. 2 and had a seminar in Uppsala Biomedical Center. Four scientists from Uppsala (Johan Kreuger, Anna-Karin Olsson, Ola Söderberg, Ingvar Ferby) and three from Japan (Kamiya, Kano, Takemori) gave presentations. Prof. Aristidis Moustakas, who hosted the seminar, is Greek and a significant part of the audience was non-Swedish. The seminar was thus active as well as international. After the seminar, Prof. Moustakas kindly arranged a guided tour to Carolina Rediviva (the Uppsala University Library). We were allowed to enter a stack room for old books of the Middle Ages. Even more impressively, we could see an original version of "Kaitai Shinsho" (an Japanese anatomical textbook published in 1774). On the next day, we also visited Gustavianum (the Anatomical Theatre at Uppsala University), which was founded in 1663 by Prof. Olof Rudbeck, one of the discoverers of the lymphatic system, and then moved to Stockholm.

On Sept. 4, after visiting the JSPS Stockholm Office, we had a seminar in Cancer Center Karolinska. We noticed that so many research buildings were under construction in the campus. Prof. Arne Östman, who hosted the seminar, had been very busy until the day before because he was one of the organizers of the Swedish Cancer Meeting, held in Karolinska Institutet on Sept. 2 and 3. However, he was still energetic and gave us hospitality. There were three talks from Karolinska Institutet (Richard Sandberg, Maria Kasper, Roland Nilsson) and five from Japan, followed by intensive discussions. After the seminar, Japanese participants had a little party in a restaurant located in Gamla Stan. On the way back, the night view of the Stockholm City Hall was so impressive.

On the next morning, we traveled 4 hours by an express train SJ2000 to Lund, our final destination. From a train window, we enjoyed early autumn in Swedish country-



side with beautiful forests and lakes. When we arrived at the Medicon Village Campus of Lund University (previously used by a pharmaceutical company Astra Zeneca), we found the flag of Japan flapping next to the flag of Sweden... Yes, Prof. Kristian Pietras gave us a surprise. In Lund, we had a round table discussion. Two Swedish and two Japanese researchers (Anna Andersson, Daniel Bexell, Okada, Shibata) gave presentations, and the participants discussed in a relaxed atmosphere. Many Japanese tourists visit Stockholm and Uppsala, but not so many come to Lund. Let them come to Lund! Lund is a nice university town, full of traditional buildings and young students.

On the early morning of the last day, we moved to Copenhagen Airport by train through the Øresund link, took a flight back to Japan. In Sweden, we were favored by good weather and enjoyed beautiful nature in addition to science. Our Swedish friends welcomed us although they were busy at the beginning of a new semester. We were also stimulated by young participants from Japan, not only because of their scientific contents but also their activeness as well as willingness to new things. We believe that this program was successful.

Finally, we would like to thank members of the JSPS Stockholm Office, especially Dr. Hideo Akutsu, the Director, Ms. Yuriko Kawakubo, the Deputy Director, and Ms. Natsumi Kudo, an International Program Associate, for supporting this program. Dr. Akutsu and Ms. Kudo accompanied us all through the program to help us. Tack så mycket!

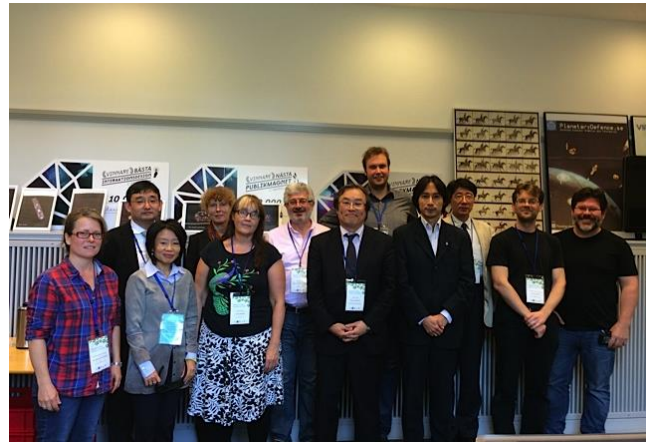
Report on the Sweden-Kyoto Symposium 2014

By Tetsuo Sawaragi, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University

The Sweden-Kyoto Symposium was held on 11–12 September, 2014 in Stockholm, Sweden in collaboration between Kyoto University and four leading Swedish institutions: Stockholm University, Uppsala University, the Royal Institute of Technology – KTH, and the Karolinska Institutet (Note: details of the symposium are available on the [Kyoto University website](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/events)*). The first day of the symposium comprised addresses by the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Sweden and representatives of each participating institution, followed by two keynote speeches. Then, on the second day, a series of parallel collaborative sessions were held covering ten specific fields of research, in which researchers from the participating institutions discussed the establishment of new research cooperation and the further development of existing ties. I was personally involved in planning the symposium from the initial stages, and also contributed to one of the sessions as a session coordinator.

The event was the seventh university-wide joint symposium that Kyoto University has organized with reputed institutions abroad. It was distinctive in that it was organized in collaboration with the four Swedish institutions. Some tasks during the early stages of preparation seemed to cause some confusion within the Swedish institutions about how to be involved in planning for the symposium, but as subsequent negotiations got underway through patient dialogue, they came to a better understanding of the significance and objectives of the event, and were very cooperative in planning the event and enthusiastic about working together toward its success.

In planning such a symposium, there are numerous ways of organizing sessions. The first way is to develop existing ties that have already been made among the institutions, and to make those ties closer and deeper. The second way is to bring together, and endeavor to make good matches between, researchers who are engaged in internationally cutting-edge work, but who have not previously had opportunities to collaborate with each other. Finally, the third way is to newly establish and nurture an academic research group in a field that is still embryonic, the members of which have therefore had no opportunity to meet together and develop close cooperation. To organize the sessions for the Sweden-Kyoto Symposium, we called for proposals from all academic departments of Kyoto University, which were then developed into ten sessions, taking care to maintain a diversity of fields. The session proposals were then forwarded to the Swedish institutions. Our initial suggestions were then developed through negotiation with the Swedish institutions. As the plans for the se-



Participants in the session on “Human-Centered Design of Sociotechnical Symbiotic Systems” (Coordinators: Dr. Eva-Lotta Sallnäs Pysander (KTH) at the far left of the front row and the author in the middle of the front row)

ssions were finalized, each of the Swedish institutions began recruiting participants. During the negotiations to finalize the session arrangements, Kyoto University’s International Affairs Division and University Research Administrators (URAs) worked hard to reach a consensus with the Swedish coordinators.

I served as coordinator for the session titled “Human-Centered Design of Sociotechnical Symbiotic Systems” together with Dr. Eva-Lotta Sallnäs Pysander (KTH), and this session was constructed as an “embryonic session” in the manner of the third method of organization mentioned above. From my perspective as a mechanical engineering researcher, what comes to mind first when I think of Sweden is the well-known automobile company Volvo Car Corporation. In particular, their car-assembly plant in the southwestern Swedish city of Uddevalla is known internationally for its novel production style of “humanistic” manufacturing—a craftsman-based approach combined with advanced materials handling wherein a small team of highly skilled workers build an entire car. Unlike the old-fashioned assembly line, where a worker does the same simple task over and over again, this approach aims to reduce the tedium of the assembly line, encouraging workers to increase their range of skills and giving them more control over their jobs. Although this production style did not prove to be a viable concept from a productivity point of view, its unique idea and spirit actually influenced the further development of Toyota’s “just-in-time” (JIT) production strategy in Japan resulting in the production style known as “cell production systems.” As can be inferred from this example, a concept of “human-centeredness” has originated from certain Northern European countries

*URL: http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/events_news/office/kenkyukokusai/kikaku/news/2014/140912_1.html

➡ including Sweden, and has prevailed among worldwide as a novel concept applicable to all user interaction design of socio-technical systems. In our session, this idea was applied to various fields of interaction design, including medicine, logistics, robotics, software, and human-machine and/or human-computer interactions, and the session aimed to provide a platform where experts from those fields could get together. Productive discussions enabled the exchange of ideas from both countries, providing different views through the lens of the respective cultures which could be applied to common design issues.

During the organization procedure mentioned above, the initial session proposal with the names of the contributors from Kyoto University was sent to the Swedish institutions, and then the Swedish coordinators called for session participants. As a result, the researchers from the Swedish institutions who were nominated as contributors to the session were very appropriate. It was very impressive that nomination was perfect in the sense that the organizers could understand the intent and purpose of the proposed session, and assembled a variety of researchers whose expertise covered multiple disciplines, including leading-edge

technologies and profound concepts involving philosophical issues that helped establish common ground among the participants' interests. Thus, we could establish an excellent new network of researchers with promising prospects for future collaboration (see below for a photograph of the session participants).

The websites and homepages of academic groups and institutions allow us to know who is engaged in what research topics, and enable us to contact with them with ease. However, certain types of personal networks can only be built through interpersonal support and mediation. Our session served as a place for people to meet face-to-face, and all of the participants from Kyoto University and the Swedish institutions acknowledged the immense value of sitting around a table together.

In closing, on behalf of the participants, I would like to express our appreciation to the following members of the JSPS Stockholm Office for their invaluable support of the symposium: Dr. Hideo Akutsu (Director), Ms. Yuriko Kawakubo (Deputy Director), Prof. Yoshiaki Fujii (former Director), Prof. Takeo Miyazawa (former Director), and Ms. Naomi Yoshizawa (former Deputy Director).



Symposium participants (Photo: Eva Dalin)

Uppsala University-Tokyo Institute of Technology Joint Symposium:

The Cats in Uppsala

By Takashi Tatsumi, Executive Vice President for Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology

“Researchers are a lot like cats. They are self-centered and seldom do as they are told. Acting as they please, they don’t like to mix with others.” Those are the words of a professor at Uppsala University, Scandinavia’s oldest university. To encourage these cat-like researchers to come together for international research exchange, a two-day joint symposium was held on September 16 and 17, 2014, at Uppsala University and hosted by Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech), Uppsala University, and the JSPS Stockholm Office (JSPS). For Tokyo Tech this was the first overseas university-wide symposium not dedicated to a specific field but covering a wide range of research areas from physics and materials science to environmental and life sciences.

At Tokyo Tech, we are stepping up the pace of education and research reform, aimed at becoming the world’s top science and technology university. In the area of education reform, we are preparing to carry out education under a new structure, in which undergraduate and graduate education is integrated, starting in April 2016. As for research reform, seeking to create a world-leading research hub, we have established new research centers including the Materials Research Center for Element Strategy and the Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI). The concept common to both the education and research reform is the march of globalization. To carry out world-class education and research, it is essential for us to engage in friendly rivalry through exchange with the world’s top universities and research institutions. To this end, Tokyo Tech already conducts student exchange and research exchange with more than 100 universities in Asia and the West.

This symposium is the result of exchanges among several researchers from Tokyo Tech and Uppsala University. It was our hope that bringing these researchers together for a university-wide, cross-disciplinary symposium would give rise to occasions for new research exchange and human exchange.

The symposium was held after nearly a year of exhaustive preparations mainly made by the Uppsala Vice-Chancellor and researchers at the university’s Ångström Laboratory.

At the opening session, the hopes for research exchange between the two universities were expressed in speeches by Uppsala University Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson, by Tokyo Tech President Yoshinao Mishima, and by JSPS Stockholm Office Director Hideo Akutsu. This was followed by six main sessions in the fields of electronics & materials science, physics/nuclear science & technology, life science & biotechnology, global energy and future

blue-sky possibilities, renewable energy, and academic-industrial collaboration. Participants exchanged views in a broad range of areas from research work to academic-industrial collaboration and funding. The closing session featured the signing of MoUs on joint research between individual researchers and the signing of a Letter of Intent toward a university-wide, research exchange agreement. There was a talk about the next symposium at Tokyo Tech in the 2015 academic year and the promotion of closer cooperation between the two schools, and both sides expressed their hopes regarding these topics.

On the evening of the opening day, JSPS hosted a reception with the backing of the Japanese Embassy in Sweden. Held at the Uppsala University Botanical Garden, it included remarks by Hideki Ishizuka, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy. After the symposium ended, a dinner was held in the Linnaeus Garden, which honors Uppsala graduate Carl Linnaeus, famous for having established the modern biological classification scheme in the 18th century. The remark about “cats” quoted above was made at that dinner, and I believe those words bespoke the difficulties of executing an event like this one. For two days, the “cats” of both universities exchanged views freely and openly, laying a major cornerstone for research exchange in the future.

Throughout the entire program, participants benefited greatly from the detailed preparations and kind consideration of Uppsala University, as we experienced the Swedish version of *omotenashi*. It will be interesting to see what kinds of changes the “cats” of both universities will have undergone by the time the next symposium is held at Tokyo Tech.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the JSPS Stockholm Office and to the Embassy of Japan in Sweden for their support.



Speech by Dr. Yoshinao Mishima, President of Tokyo Tech.

The 1st Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Finland

By Sanae Ito, University of Helsinki

At the suggestion of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office, JSPS Stockholm Office, Embassy of Japan in Finland, and Hokkaido University Helsinki Office co-organized the 1st network meeting for Japanese researchers who work at universities, companies, and research institutes in Finland to establish a good communication, stimulate further research, and explore the possibility of collaborative work in the future. This network meeting was held on the 18th of September 2014 from 17:00 to 19:00 in a staff cafeteria of the City Centre Campus for Human Sciences of the University of Helsinki. When its invitation was sent, it was widely distributed through the personal contact of each Japanese researcher. Far beyond the expectations of the organizers, in total, 45 people attended the network meeting. Their research fields vary: linguistics, history, philosophy, education, sociology, economics, musicology, art science, engineering, architecture, information science, physics, statistics, biology, chemistry, neuroscience, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. Their academic career also ranges from doctoral student and postdoctoral researcher to professor, medical doctor, and professor emeritus of a Japanese University/FiDiPro (the Finland Distinguished Professor Programme). Some participants came from Tampere, Turku, Joensuu, and Moscow.

Ms. Yuriko Kawakubo, Deputy Director of JSPS Stockholm Office, visited Finland to take part in the network meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Yuriko Kawakubo, Mr. Yoshiaki Miwa, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Finland, Prof. Shinichiro Tabata, Director of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office,

made opening remarks. After these remarks, the researchers first took a seat according to their research fields and carried out academic exchanges with refreshments and snacks. After that they changed seating and exchanged information regardless their research areas. JSPS Stockholm Office provided their newsletter in Japanese and brochure that they publish, while the embassy of Japan distributed an announcement of the seminar organized by the embassy. After two hours meeting, about a half of the participants moved to a restaurant near the Helsinki Central Railway Station and had dinner together.

The organizers have heard from the participants that they were pleased with the meeting because there has been no networking events and seminars that target the Japanese researchers in Finland so far. Some people have suggested how Japanese researchers can get together and interact with each other in the future. Many of those who were not able to attend the meeting this time said that they would like to attend the 2nd network meeting if it is held.

For the purpose of sending an invitation to future events and sharing information, Embassy of Japan in Finland has stored the contact information of the Japanese researchers who linked up with the organizers through the network meeting and shared it with JSPS Stockholm Office and Hokkaido University Helsinki Office unless a registrant refuses. If someone who wants to be added to the list, please contact Embassy of Japan in Finland (culture@hk.mofa.go.jp).



August

5-7

The audit team from JSPS Head Office in Tokyo visits the office.

Topics discussed: Ms. Kazuha Hemmi, International Program Department, Ms. Kaori Okayasu, Budget Division, and Mr. Yuki Komatsuzaki, Policy Planning, Information and Systems Division, offered support and consultation on matters such as accounting, revision, information security etc., were offered to JSPS Stockholm Office.

12

Dr. Mikiko Cars and Dr. Khaleda Gani Dutt from Stockholm University visits the office.

Topics discussed: Their plan of holding a symposium on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) next year.

12-16

Prof. Kohei Miyazono of the University of Tokyo visits the office and pays a courtesy call on Karolinska Institutet's Vice-chancellor Anders Hamsten, Dean of Research Hans-Gustaf Ljunggren and Scientific Coordinator Ulrika Widegren. Prof. Miyazono also visited Ambassador Seiji Morimoto.

Topics discussed: Collaboration and exchange among the universities, and the Nobel Dialogue Symposium to be held at the University of Tokyo in 2015.

19

Lunch meeting with KTH Royal Institute of Technology's Prof. Ramon Wyss, Vice President for International Affairs, and Mr. Torkel Werge, Advisor Bilateral Cooperations.

Topics discussed: Promotion of exchanges with Japanese universities, JSPS Fellowship programs and upcoming symposia.

19

Prof. Toshiyuki Takagi of Tohoku University visits the office.

Topics discussed: The double degree program collaboration with KTH, Core-to-core program with France, and exchange of opinions on the establishment of laboratories overseas.

25-27

Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo accompanied staff from the JSPS International Program Department Director Hisashi Kato, Mr. Hiroshi Ando, Head, International Policy Division, and Ms. Kaori Saito, International Policy Division, to a meeting with the Nobel Foundation.

Topics discussed: Details on the Nobel Week Dialogue Symposium.

27

Prof. Shinichiro Tabata, Head of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office visits the office.

Topics discussed: Information provided on Hokkaido University's 8th Freshman Seminar, upcoming seminars, and exchange of opinions on the collaboration between Nordic and Baltic countries.

September

4

Prof. Miyazawa and Prof. Imamura visits the office with 5 young Japanese researchers.

Topics discussed: The progress and outcome of the young scientist Seminars on "New Biology and Technologies in Medical Science".

8

Dr. Rasmus G. Bertelsen of Aalborg University (Denmark) visits the office.

Topics discussed: Future collaboration, information on the "Arctic Nexus in Asian-Nordic + Relations" workshop held 5-7 November, and "Arctic Science Summit Week" to be held in April, 2015.

8

Prof. Masayuki Miyasaka of Osaka University visits the office with two exchange students from Japan doing research at Karolinska Institutet.

Topics discussed: Exchange of opinions on research and collaboration.

18

Executive Vice President for Research Takashi Tatsumi, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) with 4 delegates visits the office.

Topics discussed: The achievements and future plans of the Uppsala University-Tokyo Tech joint symposium.

24

Meeting with Dr. Kristiina Jokinen, Chair of the Alumni Club Finland (ACF) at University of Helsinki, followed by a meeting with Mr. Tero Salomaa, Deputy Director of the Hokkaido University Helsinki Office.

Topics discussed: Views exchanged on future alumni activities.

24

Courtesy call on Mr. Kenji Shinoda, the Ambassador of Japan to Finland.

Topics discussed: Exchanged views on how to further activate the academic exchange between Japan and Finland.

30

Visiting Prof. Karin Forsberg Nilsson, Prof. Ulf Landegren, Prof. Stefan Bertilsson and Genomcenter project manager Inger Jonasson at the SciLifeLab in Uppsala.

Topics discussed: Presentation on Uppsala University and projects at SciLifeLab, followed by an exchange of views and tour of the institution.

October

2

Director Hideo Akutsu and Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo pays a courtesy call on Mr. Hideki Ishizuka, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Sweden.

Topics discussed: Plans on future collaboration.

8

Prof. Kenji Sugibayashi, Vice-President and Dean of the Josai University's Faculty of Pharmaceuticals Sciences, visits the office.

Topics discussed: Exchanged views on the university's international activities and the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office.

15

RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies (CLST) Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe, Division Director of RIKEN, Division of Genomic Technologies Director Piero Carninci with staff visits the office.

Topics discussed: Introduction of RIKEN activities in Sweden and the RIKEN/CLST-Karolinska Institutet-SciLifeLab "Symposium – New Era of Life Science".

12-25

Prof. Tomoko Nakanishi of the University of Tokyo visits Sweden.

Topics discussed: Exchange of views on future collaboration with JSPS. Prof. Nakanishi also visited the the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in Gothenburg (KVVS), SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SciLifeLab in Stockholm, Stockholm University, IVA Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM), and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA). Prof. Nakanishi's seminar "Radiation at our service" held at IVA can be found at <http://iva.se/seminarium/radiation-at-our-service/>



August 25-27, meeting with JSPS Tokyo and the Nobel Foundation.



October 15, with RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies (CLST)



October 12-25, with Prof. Tomoko Nakanishi, the University of Tokyo.

Interview with Prof. Yoshimi Ogawa

A Japan Boom happened already in the 1930s

By Tapani Jussila, Helsinki (tapani.jussila@kanki.fi)



Prof. **Yoshimi Ogawa** is a teacher and researcher of Japanese language education in foreign countries, based in Yokohama. Many Finnish ex-students remember her as the former Japanese teacher Yoshimi Hori in the University of Helsinki in the 1990s. Prof. Ogawa's career has a strong connection to Europe, because in addition to Finland she has also taught Japanese in the University of Sofia. She has recently published a book called *Japanese Language Classes in Pre-war Europe: Reality and Contexts*. We had a chance to talk with Prof. Ogawa at her office in Yokohama National University.

Prof. Ogawa, we often think that the popularity of Japanese culture and language in Europe is a very recent phenomenon, but your book shows that already before WWII a sort of a Japan-boom took place. How would you summarize your book?

- The book is about a flurry of activity surrounding Japanese language classes before and during WWII in the areas in Europe where Japan was consolidating its political ties. Japanese language classes were cultural projects within the specific temporal and regional context.

Where does your data come from?

- I investigated Japanese and European materials on Japanese language classes and lecturers during 1930–45 in Europe. I studied primary archives and documents in Japan and Europe and also interviewed people who were students in the classes and their relatives. My data is from Frankfurt, Berlin, Koblenz, Hamburg, Bonn, Heidelberg, Leipzig, Vienna, Sofia and Helsinki. In Finland the legendary names in Japanese education have been Kuwaki-sensei who was teaching in Helsinki

1941–44 and his student Martta Keravuori, whose grandson Klaus Keravuori I was able to interview.

It seems that the interest in Japanese culture was a demonstration of larger political and cultural movement?

- Yes. My book explains the political and cultural contexts. The activity was a part of the shift in the balance of the cultural interaction between Japan and Europe and demonstrated the movement from reception towards transmission in the contents of the classes.

Is language teaching to foreigners always connected to politics?

- It often is. Historians have often focused on Japanese education in its colonies like Taiwan, but my book focuses on another aspect of Japanese language education, one that stressed improving world public opinion toward Japan and strengthening of political ties.

When did the Japanese language education start in Europe?

- The first cases were 1850s in Holland and 1870s in Italy. In larger scale it was connected to cultural treaties between Japan and several European nations in the 1930s.

Who were the Japanese teachers?

- Most of them happened to start teaching after studying abroad in that land. They were mostly researchers in the humanities and social sciences, fluent in the European language of their land, and well-grounded in cultural knowledge as well.





How was Japan's political status in Europe?

- After WWI, although Japan's status as one of the world's big 5 powers had been established, the asymmetric cultural relations between Japan and Europe remained. Japan was considered culturally a receiving country. It was the task of Japanese education to remedy this asymmetry and achieve equality.

In which countries did the "Japan Boom" happen in Europe during 1930-45 ?

- The first country to make a cultural treaty with Japan was Hungary. Then followed Germany, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Finland.

What about the link between Japan and the Nazi Germany?

- In post-1933 Germany, lectures on the theme of "Japanese spirit" were welcomed. In wartime Axis

nations, it has been reported that new Japanese classes and lectures taught by Japanese attracted crowds of hundreds. Of course Japanese teachers promoted friendly relations between Japan and Germany.

To conclude, how do you see the situation of language education and politics these days?

- There are a lot of examples in our days of language education as a strategic national tool crossing national borders. The "power of culture" is receiving increased attention, and Japanese language is certainly fashionable. For example, some Japanese language instructors are teaching Japanese manga, anime and pop culture in Europe. It seems that these days also China and Korea are actively promoting their languages and culture in Europe and elsewhere.

4. Notice (1) Activities

JSPS Bilateral Program Joint Research Projects/Seminars Call for Proposals

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) carries out bilateral cooperative programs between Japan and counterpart countries based on agreements concluded with academies, research councils and other science-promotion organizations in those countries. JSPS also has a scheme for joint projects/seminars named "Open Partnership Joint Research Projects/Seminars", that provides Japanese researchers an opportunity to collaborate with researchers who reside in a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. The aim of these programs is to form sustained networks evolved from individual scientist exchanges including young scientists.

JSPS provides financial support to Japanese scientists implementing such bilateral joint projects and seminars between research teams from Japan and counterpart countries.

Deadline for proposals is February, 2015. For further information, please refer to the guidelines found at JSPS Tokyo's website:

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/index.html> (English version)

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/bilat.html> (Japanese version)

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers

1) Standard & Short-term

JSPS offers several fellowship programs for young foreign researchers, to provide an opportunity to engage in research in collaboration under the guidance of the Japanese host researchers. Application guidelines for FY2015 can be found on JSPS Tokyo's website: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-fellow/>

The call for applications in Sweden will open soon, more information to be announced at our website:

<http://www.jsps-sto.com/jspsfellowships.aspx>

2) JSPS Summer Program

The JSPS Summer Program is implemented as a component of the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers. It provides opportunities for young pre- and post-doctoral researchers from North America and Europe to receive an orientation on Japanese culture and research systems and to pursue research under the guidance of host researchers at Japanese universities and research institutes over a period of two months during the summer.

Please see the following websites for more information:

<http://www.stint.se/en/>

<http://www.jsps-sto.com/fellowship-summer.aspx>

4. Notice (2) Alumni

Call for SAC Activity Seminar applications FY2015

JSPS Stockholm offers financial support to activity seminars organized by Sweden Alumni Club (SAC) members with the possibility to invite one Japanese speaker.

All board and regular members are eligible to apply for activity seminar funding.

Application process is open until **February 13, 2015**.

Further information and guidelines:

<http://www.jsps-sto.com/activity-seminars.aspx>

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