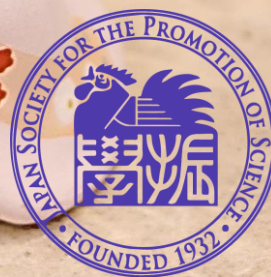


JSPS Stockholm Newsletter

2015 Winter

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1. Prologue

- A Dream of Denmark by Director Hideo Akutsu, JSPS Stockholm Office

2. News

(1) Activities

- The 2014 Nobel Week
- Attending the "Arctic Nexus in Asian-Nordic+ Relations" Workshop in Aalborg, Denmark
- Attending the Stockholm University Study Fair
- Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Denmark
- New Year Reception held at the Ambassador's Residence in Sweden
- KVA-JSPS Seminar held with Prof. Shoji Takeuchi
- Attending the Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2015
- Attending the Finnish-Japanese Joint Symposium on Morphogenesis and Signaling

(2) Alumni

- SAC Joint Board Meeting and General Assembly
- ACF Board Meeting, General Assembly and All Alumni Meeting

3. Reports

(1) Activities

- The 3rd Sweden-Japan Academic Network Keynote Lecture by Prof. Masayuki Nakajima, Uppsala University

(2) Meetings

(3) Alumni

- BRIDGE Fellowship Report (ACF): Once in your lifetime opportunity by Dr. Heikki Mäkipää
- BRIDGE Fellowship Report (SAC) by Prof. Imre Pázsit
- Farewell from the former JSPS Alumni Club in Finland Chairman, by Dr. Antero Laitinen
- Assyrian Policy towards Babylonia in the 7th Century BC by Ms. Sanae Ito
- A New Guidebook on Japan: An Interdisciplinary Spin-off of Mombugakusho and JSPS Scholarships by Dr. Tapani Jussila

4. Notice

(1) Alumni

- Seminar: Research and Study Possibilities in and on Japan
- JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) Seminar: Future Diagnostics

A Dream of Denmark

By Director Hideo Akutsu, JSPS Stockholm Office

It was warm and pleasant even in the evening in autumn-prevalled Odense. This city is located in the island of Funen (Fyn), which connects the Jutland (Jylland) peninsula and the island of Zealand (Sjælland) harboring Copenhagen. It can date back to more than thousand years ago. Antique houses and streets in the birth town of Andersen were still hinting the world of his fairy tales. Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) started his life of agony here. We strolled comfortable streets. Although his birth house and the home of his childhood, his school house, and others are preserved, it is not easy to follow the track of his mental growth in his childhood. There was a secondhand store in the neighborhood, where old toys and something like an Aladin's lamp were displayed in the loft. However, there was no secret hole leading to the beginning of 19th century. Andersen's tales have been indicated to be dark because of his life in Odense. What kind of agony drove him out of his home town? Actually, the Danish Kingdom was also depressed by painful agony in that time.

I visited Odense to participate in a Danish-Japanese Workshop on Bioenergy organized by Danish Agency of Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI). The meeting was active, reflecting the cheerful atmosphere of the current Denmark. The background of this workshop was an ambitious national initiative for building up a new energy system. As it is well known, Denmark was seriously damaged by the oil shock in 1970s, and decided to establish a self-supplied energy system without involvement of nuclear power plants in 1985 on the basis of a nationwide discussion. Renewable energy was set as a major energy source in 1990. Owing to their intensive efforts, more than 100% energy is now self-supplied. And the renewable energy per entire used energy was 22% in 2011. It is worth to note that 70% of renewable energy was produced from biomass. According to the reports in this workshop, Danish dairy farming and other agricultures are contributing to the biomass energy through electric power generation and biogas production. Heat released in the production processes is used for heating local houses and facilities. It is called as Combined Heat and Power Production (CHP). The wind power, which is assumed to be the major energy source in the initiative, cannot provide constant electricity because of unstable weather. Furthermore, electricity cannot be stored with the current technology. In contrast, the biomass energy production is stable and controllable. Therefore, these two kinds of power plants are complimentary in building a reliable renewable energy system. The plan of Danish government is to boost the renewable energy in the total usage to 35% by 2020 and to 100% by 2050, relying on wind power and biomass energy. Problems are how to cut the cost of energy production down, and how to develop a storage system for surplus electricity. This workshop was also dedicated to these issues. According to the Japanese participants, Denmark is investing huge money to R & D of bioenergy, which pushes up the Danish research in this field to the top level in the world.

The initiative to scrap fossil fuel is a dream. So far it seems to be going well. However, there would be many challenges in the coming years, since new technologies shall be explored. In the challenging period, direct commitment of Danish people to this initiative may play an important role. The number of CHP, major energy production facilities, in 2012 were 16 for large size, and 665 for small size. In addition to the latter, there are also 230 local heating systems (Hisashi Sakauchi, NORIN KINYU, 2012: 10).

The dominating small facilities are run by local communities and private companies and function as local grids covering people's everyday life. They work together with the nationwide core grids led by governmental organizations in efficient and flexible ways. This kind of active involvement of inhabitants is taken as an important driving force of the national initiative. Because of national consensus on the renewable energy, people accept cost-sharing and energy saving, which results in the constant usage of whole energy in Denmark from 1995 in spite of expansion of its economy.

After the accident of Fukushima Nuclear Reactors in 2011, Germany and other European countries have joined this stream. However, Denmark is confident of its leading carrier for 30 years. DASTI expects a huge market of their renewable energy technology. In the time of Andersen, Denmark was in the depths of depression because it was defeated in the Napoleon war and Schleswig dispute. The Danish people revitalized the country and have materialized current prosperity. This Danish spirit might be the real driving force of the ambitious initiative of renewable energy. Odense is the place, where the first biomass CHP plant was built, and a front runner of this initiative. The tiny fire of a match, on which the little match girl pictured her dream in the street of Odense, has now evolved to the renewable energy, on which Denmark is projecting its dream.



The 2014 Nobel Week

In the memory of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Prize is awarded to discoveries and inventions of greatest benefit on mankind. The first week in December, the Nobel Week, is filled with events, lectures by Laureates, and ceremonies related to the prestigious prize.

December 7 – Nobel Lectures in Medicine and reception at Karolinska Institutet

The Physiology or Medicine Laureates John O'Keefe, May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser, gave lectures in the full Aula Medica, Karolinska Institutet, on their discoveries of the inner GPS.

The lectures were followed by a reception where the invited guests could mingle and congratulate the laureates.

December 8 – Nobel Lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Economics, reception, Nobel Prize Concert

The Physics Laureates Prof. Isamu Akasaki (Meijo University and Nagoya University), Prof. Hiroshi Amano (Nagoya University), and Prof. Shuji Nakamura (University of California, Santa Barbara), had attracted many participants and Japanese media to their lectures on blue LEDs in the Aula Magna, Stockholm University.

The physics lectures were then followed by the lectures in Chemistry and Economic Sciences.

Around lunch time, the Embassy of Japan had organized a reception to honor the Japanese Physics Laureates, and the Japanese media was invited to a press conference held shortly after.

In the evening, young Latvian conductor Andris Nelsons led the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in the Nobel Prize Concert, held at the Stockholm Concert Hall.



The Physics Laureates were greeted with applause at the Nobel Lectures in Aula Magna, Stockholm University.

December 9 – The Nobel Week Dialogue

The Nobel Week Dialogue, a symposium open to the general public, was held in the Stockholm City Conference Centre. The theme of the dialogue was "The Age to Come", with Nobel Laureates, world-leading scientists, experts and politicians discussing the scientific and cultural implications of the ageing world. In addition to the 1000 participating audience from more than 90 countries, the dialogue could also be followed live online. During the pause, JSPS President Dr. Yuichiro Anzai and



Panel discussion "The Implications of an Older World", Nobel Week Dialogue.

Nobel Foundation's Executive Director Lars Heikensten, signed the memorandum of understanding for the Nobel Prize Dialogue to be held in Tokyo 2015.

December 10 – Last day of the Nobel Week

On this day, President Anzai visited the Nobel Museum and met with Dr. Olov Amelin, Museum Director.

Later, President Anzai and his spouse were invited to attend the Nobel Prize award ceremony at Stockholm Concert Hall, where the Laureates were awarded their Nobel prizes in the presence of the Royal family of Sweden. The award ceremony was followed by the exclusive banquet in the Stockholm City Hall, and President Anzai and his spouse were invited to join in the Nobel festivities.



JSPS President Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, with Nobel Museum Director Dr. Olov Amelin.

December 11 – Visit to Karolinska Institutet and JSPS Stockholm Office

Before his departure to Japan, President Anzai visited the Karolinska Institutet's Vice-chancellor Prof. Anders Hamsten for the purpose of promoting academic exchange between Japan and Sweden. After the meeting, President Anzai visited the JSPS Stockholm Office.

Attending the “Arctic Nexus in Asian-Nordic+ Relations” Workshop in Aalborg, Denmark



Speech by Assistant Professor Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Aalborg University

On November 5-7, 2014, the workshop “Arctic Nexus in Asian-Nordic+ Relations” focusing on Arctic research was held in Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark.

The aim of the Aalborg workshop was to create new research collaboration and dialogue between Asia, the Nordic and other Arctic nations, with four themes for discussion: geopolitics, geoeconomics, science diplomacy and transnational indigenous relations with panels.

Opening remarks were given by Assistant Professor Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Aalborg University, and Prof. Li Xing, Aalborg University, followed by self-introduction of the participants. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Dr. Hideo Akutsu, Director, and Ms. Natsumi Kudo, International Program Associate, attended the workshop on November 5, and Director Akutsu gave an explanatory introduction of JSPS, the activities of the Stockholm Office and JSPS programs.

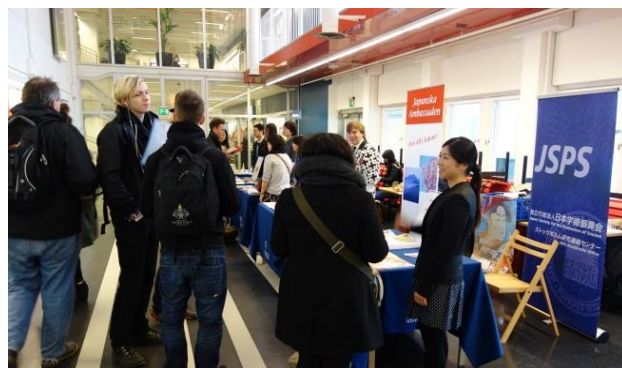
Participants included researchers from 12 countries engaging in an exchange of views and information, inspiring new research and collaboration.

Attending the Stockholm University Study Fair

On November 25, Ms. Satomi Oe and Ms. Natsumi Kudo, JSPS Stockholm Office’s International Program Associates, participated in the International Study Fair at Stockholm University. The purpose of the fair is to inspire the university’s students to go on exchange abroad.

The fair had approximately 50 information tables of which 28 were country/region specific tables staffed with international students, 2 universities, 6 embassies, student union and internal exhibitors/departments.

Ms. Oe and Ms. Kudo provided information on research possibilities in Japan through JSPS programs.



Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Denmark

On November 26, the Embassy of Japan in Denmark organized a Network Meeting for Japanese Researchers in Denmark. Along with about 20 Japanese researchers residing in Denmark and southern Sweden, Dr. Hideo Akutsu, Director of JSPS Stockholm Office, participated in the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the researchers to share current information on the Danish society and the academic fields.

Ambassador Mr. Seishi Sueti offered welcome remarks

and mentioned the meeting in March 2014 between Japan and Denmark’s respective Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Helle Thonig-Schmidt. The two leaders agreed to establish and promote a Strategic Partnership between Japan and Denmark. After listening to the researchers view, Ambassador Sueti mentioned how he wanted to further strengthen the exchange in science and technology.

Following the Ambassador’s remarks, all participants gave a self-introduction and engaged in a lively discussion on various topics.

New Year Reception held at the Ambassador's Residence in Sweden

On January 20, a New Year Reception held at the Ambassador's residence. Invited guests included members of the Japanese Associations in Sweden, Japanese Businessmen's Club and others with close relations to Japan.

The reception was opened with a speech by Ambassador Seiji Morimoto, honoring the year of the Sheep. The Ambassador expressed hopes on a further strengthened bilateral cooperation between Japan and Sweden, and mentioned the visit to Japan in November 2014 by Aida Hadzialic, Sweden's Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training, Ministry of Education and Research.

Following the Ambassador's speech, greetings were given by the Japanese Association in Stockholm's chair Ms. Yoko Kaneko, and the Japanese Businessmen's Club in Stockholm's chair Mr. Kenichi Outeki.

Together with the Ambassador, Ms. Kaneko and Mr. Outeki performed the "kagami biraki", a traditional way



of opening a cask of Sake at a ceremony. Guests born in the Sheep's year were welcome to participate in "Mochitsuki", the traditional way of pounding the Japanese rice cake mochi.

KVA-JSPS Seminar held with Prof. Shoji Takeuchi

Since 2009, JSPS has together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) organized seminars with Japanese lecturers. The third and final seminar in the FY2014 series was held on February 16 2015, with invited speaker Prof. Shoji Takeuchi, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo. In the morning session, Prof. Takeuchi gave a lecture on "Microfluidics for Biomedical Applications". Jointly, Prof. Sunghoon Kwon, Seoul National University, gave a lecture on "Translation

from Lab to Clinic: Rapid Antibiotic Susceptibility Test & Laser Sniper Cloning". About 40 students and researchers participated in the seminar.

Later in the afternoon, a workshop for students was held and there was a lively discussion.

During his visit in Sweden, Prof. Takeuchi also participated in a workshop held at the Nobel museum, and paid a visit to JSPS Stockholm Office.



Prof. Takeuchi lecturing.



From left to right: Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo, seminar organizer Prof. Helene Andersson Svahn, Prof. Shoji Takeuchi, Prof. Sunghoon Kwon, and Director Hideo Akutsu.

Attending the Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2015

On March 1, 2015, JSPS and Nobel Media co-organized “the Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2015” at Tokyo International Forum and Ms. Kawakubo, Deputy Director of JSPS Stockholm Office attended it as a staff. It was the first time to hold Nobel Prize Dialogue outside Sweden. “Nobel Prize Dialogue” is inspired by “Nobel Week Dialogue”, which takes place in Sweden on the day before the Nobel Prize Ceremony.

The topic for the conference was “The Genetic Revolution and its Future Impact”. Lectures and panel discussions were provided asking how advances in genetics are changing society now and in the future.

On the day, around 800 people from home and abroad participated and asked questions in the venue engaging in a dialogue. Viewers around the world followed the dialogue via the webcast.



Speech by Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of JSPS.

Attending the Finnish-Japanese Joint Symposium on Morphogenesis and Signaling

On March 3-4, 2015, the University of Helsinki Integrative Life Science doctoral program (ILS), the Center of Excellence in Experimental and Computational Developmental Biology (ECDev), and the Finnish Society for Developmental Biology co-organized a symposium on Morphogenesis and Signaling at the Biocenter, University of Helsinki. About 100 researchers and students within the field participated in the symposium. Lectures were given by 10 researchers from the University of Tokyo, Osaka University, National Institute

of Genetics, Japan, and the National Institute for Basic Biology, Japan. More than 20 PhD students and young researchers from the universities mentioned above and University of Helsinki participated in the posters sessions. On the first day of the symposium, Ms. Natsumi Kudo, JSPS Stockholm Office’s International Program Associate, attended to give an introduction of JSPS Stockholm Office activities and JSPS Fellowship Programs. Ms. Kudo also participated in the poster session to further inform on the JSPS Fellowship Programs.



Symposium participants.

SAC Joint Board Meeting and General Assembly



Dr. Jonas Olsson, SMHI, gives presentation about his SAC Activity Seminar.

On November 13, the JSPS Sweden Alumni Club (SAC) held a joint board meeting & General Assembly at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA). A report was given on the Club's activities over the fiscal year, a review of upcoming activities and how to celebrate the Club's 10-year anniversary in 2015 was discussed. It was decided that a working group was to be established among the participating members, who will be active in organizing a suitable event to celebrate the Club's anniversary.

Two members gave presentations on their recent JSPS related activities: Dr. Jonas Olsson of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), spoke about the SAC Activity seminar which he organized in May 2013 on the topic of "Meteorological Data and large-scale hydrological climate studies" with invited speaker Prof. Akiyo Yatagai, Nagoya University. Dr. Olsson explained that their common interface was in India, and Prof. Yatagai's group had produced the best available temperature data which shows what will happen to the Indian water in the future.

Prof. Imre Pazsit of Chalmers University of Technology, shared his experience of being a BRIDGE Fellow FY2014 at the Tsukuba University. Together with his host Prof. Hidetoshi Konno, they did joint research on the so-called fractional generalisation of random processes, as well as on the stability of boiling water reactors.

Both presentations sparked interest among the participants of the General Assembly and many questions were asked.

The Club officially welcomed 13 new members, and JSPS Stockholm Office would like to encourage all members to join the alumni activities.

ACF Board Meeting, General Assembly and All Alumni Meeting

On November 27, the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) held a board meeting and its annual General Assembly at the Dipoli Congress Centre, Aalto University.

Chair Dr. Kristiina Jokinen gave an introduction of the club and its activities during the fiscal year.

It was announced that an ACF Members' Seminar will be held in Turku in May, 2015, and the members of the seminar's organizing committee, Mr. Tony Wahlroos and Mr. Peter Virta, were invited to the General Assembly for the purpose of introducing the planned seminar on "Future Diagnostics".

Due to recent resignation, an election of a board member was held. Among the participating members, Prof. Robert Franzén of Tampere University and FY2013 BRIDGE fellow was elected and welcomed as a new member of the board.

Following the General Assembly, the "All Alumni Meeting" was held, an event co-organized by the Embassy of Japan in Finland, Hokkaido University Helsinki Office, ACF and JSPS Stockholm Office. The participants consisted of scholars from each organizing institution, with two lectures given by Ms. Sanae Ito, University of Helsinki (JSPS fellow), and Dr. Tapani Jussila, Kanki

International OY (JSPS and Japanese Government Scholar fellow). The topic of Ms. Ito's lecture was "Assyrian Policy towards Babylonia in the 7th century BC", while the topic of Dr. Jussila's lecture was "A new guidebook on Japan: An Interdisciplinary Spinoff of Monbukagakusho and JSPS Scholarships".

After the seminar, all participants were invited to a reception for the purpose of establishing new contacts and exchange views among fellow scholars on their experiences in Japan.

*Please find Ms. Sanae Ito's report on page 16, and Dr. Tapani Jussila's report on page 18.



The 3rd Sweden-Japan Academic Network Keynote Lecture

By Prof. Masayuki Nakajima, Department of Game Design, Uppsala University

This year, the 3rd Sweden-Japan Academic Network was held in the Beijer Hall of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, located in the campus of Stockholm University. This event was organized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Embassy of Japan and JSPS Stockholm Office, with the goal to promote academic exchange between Japan and Sweden.

Each time, 1-2 Japanese and Swedish researchers with close ties to Japan, are invited to give lectures. This year, I was invited to give the keynote lecture with the following title: "My Game Research in Sweden for a bridge between Japan and Sweden".

Why I was invited to give keynote lecture is unclear, however, I presume the reason would be that I am an employee of Uppsala University's department of game design, and that Japan is world-leading within the field and the future development of games in Sweden are expected to become a large export industry.

At first, I was unsure of what contents my talk should have as the participants were not only researchers from universities and research institutes, but also Japanese residing in Sweden and the general public. I decided to explain the history of my department and give an overview of my department's game research and education, to the end with an introduction of the current state of the Swedish game industry.

First, I introduced on how my position of professor at Gotland University led to my current position as professor at Uppsala University, after retiring from the Tokyo Institute of Technology. Actually, an exchange between Gotland University and my research lab at Tokyo Tech was initiated in Spring 2004, with visits to Gotland several times every year, giving lectures on the most recent CG and multimedia, and discussing the way of game education. Staff from Gotland University also visited Tokyo Institute of Technology for long-term stays. After retiring from Tokyo Tech, I was appointed Professor at Gotland University. In July 2013, Gotland University merged with Uppsala University and that is how I became a professor at Uppsala University.

Following the introduction of myself, I explained the characteristics of the university's game department (game education policy, curriculum, the biggest event GGC: Gotland Game Conference, game-related facilities, etc.), and details of the current research carried out in the CMLab (Convergent Media Laboratory).



Director Hideo Akutsu and Prof. Masayuki Nakajima.

Finally, I informed on the current state of the game industry in Sweden (explained that many of the recent, world-wide popular games were developed in Sweden and introduced their titles, the export value and its growth, and the growth of GDP in Sweden contributed by the game industry etc). Additionally, one of the most important tasks for the department of game design at Uppsala University is to prepare for and support the Sweden Pavilion at the Tokyo Game Show held every year in September at the Makuhari Messe. The purpose of this event is to exhibit the game department's excellent games and for teachers and students to understand the current state of Japanese games. This exhibition at the Tokyo Game Show also plays a role of a bridge between Sweden and Japan within the game field. This year's academic network participants were over 100, and the lecture was followed by a reception. Sushi and other luxurious food was provided, participants meeting each other for the first time were conversing, and I also got a chance to get acquainted with Japanese researchers residing in Sweden. Many participants, myself included, felt it was a successful event.

By the way, a female student who wished to apply for the MEXT scholarship asked me to introduce an appropriate game-related professor and I immediately introduced my friend. Thanks to this party, her application is accepted in a Game department of Japanese University by MEXT Scholarship Program and she starts studying from 1st, April.

October

27

Meeting at IVA with Dr. Johan Weigelt, IVA Secretary to the Academy and Executive Vice President, IVA International Coordinator Dr. Maria Dollhopf, and Mr. Edvard Fleetwood, Secretary General of Sweden-Japan Foundation.

Topics discussed: The 2nd IVA seminar of FY2014 and potential speakers within the field of Fuel Cells.



October 27, meeting at IVA.

28

Visit by Dr. Atsuto Maki, Assoc. Prof., KTH Royal Institute of Technology, School of Computer Science and Communication.

Topics discussed: His research and plan, explanation of JSPS programs.

November

18

Visit by Ms. Maria Olsson and Ms. Marlene Deogan, International Coordinators of Faculty Office and International Relations, Karolinska Institutet.

Topics discussed: Introducing new international coordinator Ms. Deogan, future collaboration, explanation of JSPS Stockholm Office activities and JSPS Fellowship Programs.

December

2

Meeting with Prof. Marie Söderberg, Director of the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EJIS), Stockholm School of Economics, Mr. Hideki Ishizuka, Minister, and Mr. Masafumi Sato, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden.

Topics discussed: Exchange of opinions concerning a co-organized seminar to be held the next fiscal year.

9

Meeting with Göran Marklund, Deputy Director-General, VINNOVA, organized by Ambassador Seiji Morimoto.

Topics discussed: Opinion exchange on the current status of higher education, research and academic exchange

between Japan and Sweden. Dr. Michiharu Nakamura, President of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Mr. Akio Ishida, Research promotion Department Director of JST also attended the meeting.

10

Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of JSPS, and Mr. Yoshio Yamawaki, Director-General for International Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), visited the Nobel Museum and met with Dr. Olov Amelin, Museum Director.

Topics discussed: The Nobel Prize Dialogue in Tokyo 2015 and the establishment of the Nobel Center.

11

Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of JSPS, Mr. Yoshio Yamawaki, Director-General for International Affairs of MEXT visited Prof. Anders Hamsten, Vice-Chancellor of Karolinska Institutet (KI).

Topics discussed: Explanation of KI's new "Strategy 2018", the development of Japan's medical research.



December 11, meeting with Prof. Anders Hamsten, Vice-Chancellor, Karolinska Institutet.

11

Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of JSPS with spouse, and Mr. Yoshio Yamawaki, Director-General for International Affairs of MEXT visited JSPS Stockholm Office.

Topics discussed: Views exchanged on the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and Sweden, explanation of JSPS Stockholm Office's activities.

12

Meeting at IVA with Dr. Johan Weigelt, Secretary to the Academy and Executive Vice President, Dr. Maria Dollhopf, International Coordinator.

Topics discussed: Details on the IVA-JSPS seminar "Fuel-Cell Vehicles – the Solution for Fossil Free Transportation?" in March 2015, and consultation regarding speakers for FY2015 seminars.

16

Meeting with Dr. Hans Pohl, STINT Program Director.

Topics discussed: JSPS Summer Program FY2015 and the organizing of a pre-orientation for FY2015 candidates.

January

13

Visit to Lund's MAX IV Laboratory, Jesper N. Andersen, Science Director, Tomas Lundqvist, Life Science Director, Lena Qvist, Laboratory Management Assistant.

Meeting Karin Frydenlund, Head of the International Office, Faculty of Medicine, Lund University.

Topics discussed: Explanation of all concerning parties' activities, exchange of views.

15

Visit by Mr. Tero Salomaa, Deputy Director of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office.

Topics discussed: Details on meeting in Lund on March 5, and the event "Research & Study possibilities in and on Japan" to be held on May 11 in Helsinki.



January 15, visit by Mr. Tero Salomaa, Deputy Director of Hokkaido University Helsinki Office

19

Visit by Dr. Dong Seong Han, Director of National Research Foundation of Korea Stockholm Office, Ms. Inhee Suh, local officer of NRF Stockholm Office, and Prof. Kwangsoo Yang, University of Nagasaki, Graduate School of Economics.

Topics discussed: Introducing Director Dong Seong Han as the newly appointed Director of NRF Stockholm Office, introductions and information exchange on NRF and JSPS. JSPS Stockholm Office explained the research exchange between Japan and Sweden.

23

Meeting at IVA with Dr. Johan Weigelt, Secretary to the Academy and Executive Vice President, Dr. Maria Dollhopf, International Coordinator.

Topics discussed: Final discussion on details on the IVA-JSPS seminar "Fuel-Cell Vehicles – the Solution for Fossil Free Transportation?" in March 2015.

February

4

Visit to Academy of Finland for a meeting with Prof. Heikki Mannila, President, and Ulla Ellmen, Science

Adviser.

Topics discussed: JSPS Fellowship Program (standard) and future collaboration.

5

Visit to the Nobel Peace Center for the meeting with Linda Netland, Director of Information and Education.

Topics discussed: Introduction of JSPS Stockholm Office, activities of the Nobel Peace Center.



February 5, with Linda Netland, Director of Information and Education, Nobel Peace Center.

5

Visit to the Research Council of Norway (RCN) for the meeting with Ms. Julie Christiansen, Senior Adviser, the Research Council of Norway.

Topics discussed: Introduction of JSPS Stockholm Office, exchange views on future collaboration.

5

Visit to the Embassy of Japan in Norway for the meeting with Mr. Hiroyuki Inui, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Norway.

Topics discussed: Information exchanged on academic trends in Norway, exchange of views on future collaboration.

17

Visit by Prof. Shoji Takeuchi, the University of Tokyo, invited speaker in the KVA-JSPS seminar.

Topics discussed: Views exchanged on academic exchange between Japan and Sweden.

18

Visit by Dr. Mariko Gakiya, Faculty Director of Global Leadership Program, the University of Tokyo.

Topics discussed: Current activities and exchange between Japan and Sweden, introduction JSPS Stockholm Office's activities.

JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (ACF):**Once in your lifetime opportunity**

By Dr. Heikki Mäkipää, President of the Finland Japan Culture and Education Association (FJCE)

During 1983-1984 I had an opportunity to receive a grant from JSPS under the Invitation Fellowship Program. My family, wife and 3 children (youngest ½ years on age), followed me and we all spent immemorial months in Japan. On that time I carried out some studies at the University of Tokyo as a postdoc on the Miyakejima volcano which had erupted violently and literally blown up some parts of the island to the Pacific Ocean. Since that I and my family have had Japanese culture as a habit of our daily life in Finland.

Now, in October-November 2014, I received a grant from JSPS under the BRIDGE Fellowship Program. At this time, my primary intention was to study the stability of certain minerals under the high temperature and pressure on the garnet-cordierite-antophyllite rock (GCA) found in Finland. Previously I have done a lot of experiments on these rocks on laboratory conditions at NASA Houston Space Center and at the University of Tokyo. Several hundreds of new microprobe analyses were waiting for closer look and the discussion on the prevailing PT conditions during the formation of GCA-rocks was completely untouched.

Same as 31 years ago, I wanted again to make my studies at the University of Tokyo.

The University of Tokyo

During my tenure as the BRIDGE Fellow I managed to approach some of my goals but still many questions stayed open. This was caused by a very short tenure time (31 days) for this kind of research work.

The University of Tokyo provided an excellent and inspiring place to work. My supervisor Professor Kazuhito Ozawa kindly introduced me to the staff of the department which helped my stay in many ways. He also provided me the use of all the facilities of the department, including the electron microprobe. I had opportunity to make new analyses to clarify some open questions. Also the use of microscopes with camera equipment gave the possibility to compare thin sections and identify mineral assemblages on sections. Discussions with Professor Ozawa broadened my view on

**Name:** Dr. Heikki Mäkipää**Institution:** Finland Japan Culture and Education Association (FJCE)**Host institution in Japan:** University of Tokyo**Host researcher:** Prof. Kazuhito Ozawa**Title of research in Japan:** The stability of Phlogopite as the indicator of the degree of aerial metamorphism; an experimental study under water oversaturated conditions at high temperature and pressure.**Fellowship period:** 24 October-26 November 2014

the development of modern petrology and he also opened my eyes for new ideas and solutions in my research problems.



Nice daily lunchtime under the trees in front of the main building at the University of Tokyo.

During my stay I also had several occasions to discuss with Academician, Professor Ikuo Kushiro who was my supervisor 31 years ago. Discussions with him and follow of his experimental work gave to me more new ideas and self-confidence than I expected.

Travel support by JSPS

JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Program's travel support made possible to visit many places in Japan. One of the most interesting and successful trip was the visit to Hokkaido. During my four days stay in Hokkaido I met 6 colleagues who I already knew and 32 new persons on the meetings on educational field from Kindergarten to University. I also held 2 speeches in seminars on the "regional development based on the research at universities".

In Tokyo and surroundings I met my previous professional friends so that during my stay in Japan I met over 50 people. This was a great success from the Bridge Fellowship Program's goals point of view.

Due to my very positive experience I would like to encourage all the former JSPS Fellows to apply this BRIDGE Fellowship Program – once in your lifetime opportunity.

JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship Research Report (SAC)

By Prof. Imre Pázsit, Chalmers University of Technology

I have long had contacts with my host, Prof. Hidetoshi Konno, in the field of nuclear engineering, in particular in reactor diagnostics based on noise analysis. In 2013 I visited him with a short term JSPS Fellowship, and we initiated research on the fractional generalisation of the master equation of the generalised birth process, describing the evolution of the probability distribution of particles with multiplication (such as neutrons in a nuclear reactor). This is a branch of mathematical physics, aiming at the understanding of the nature of certain random processes which take place in e.g. nuclear reactors. During the BRIDGE Fellowship, we extended the research to the multi-fractal nature of the Fractional Generalized Birth-Death Stochastic Process (FGBDP). We have clarified the appearance of nonlinear modes of time evolution due to the long-time memory associated with the incorporation of fractional derivative. A short paper was prepared and submitted to Physical Review E.

During my visit we also developed a theory for the explanation of certain non-linear features of the stability of boiling water reactors with the help the so-called catastrophe theory. Catastrophe theory is a special branch of dynamical systems, which explains why certain parameters of a system, described by smooth equations, behave discontinuously as functions of other parameters which change continuously. We developed a model which can explain the observed discontinuous behaviour of the stability of boiling water reactors (BWRs). We have written a conference contribution which will be presented at the Mathematics and Computation conference of the ANS in April 2015. A paper will be submitted to Physics Today later.



The Reactor Noise workshop of the PHYSOR conference.

Apart from the above described research, I tried to live up to the spirit of the BRIDGE fellowship, i.e. to maintain and develop contacts with Japanese colleagues. In my

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Institution: Chalmers University of Technology, Division of Nuclear Engineering

Host institution in Japan: University of Tsukuba, Department of Risk Engineering

Host researcher: Prof. Hidetoshi Konno

Title of research in Japan: Fractional generalisation of the master equation and applications in complex systems, and non-linear dynamics of boiling water reactors.

Fellowship period: 26 September – 17 October 2014

case, in view of my retirement at the end of February 2015, I also had the ambition to transfer my contacts to my younger colleagues. In this respect it was helpful that during the first week of my stay, I attended the PHYSOR-2014 conference (PHYSics Of Reactors) in Kyoto between 28 September and 2 October. I was one of the Technical Program Co-chairs of the conference, as well as workshop and special session organizer and speaker. The conference gave an excellent opportunity to meet numerous colleagues from all parts of Japan, and even to transfer contacts to younger colleagues.

Utilising that the conference site was relatively close to Kyoto University Research Reactor Institute (KURRI) in Kumatori, after arrival to Japan on 26 September at the Kansai International Airport, I immediately visited KURRI together with my colleague Assistant Prof. Dina Chernikova. We made a guided tour of KUCA (Kyoto University Critical Assembly) and KUR (Kyoto University Reactor) by former KURRI Director Prof. Seichi Shiroya.

We also visited the Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) facilities both at KUR and at the KURRI accelerator driven subcritical facility around KUCA including the FFAG proton accelerator. BNCT is a way of treating certain types of cancer, such as brain tumours, by neutron irradiation of the cancer tissue. In the afternoon we had discussions with Prof. H. Moriyama, present director, and Prof. K. Nakajima, general chair of the PHYSOR conference. Next morning, before going to the conference venue, we had even time to make an excursion to Amanohashidate with Japanese friends.

On the day before the opening of the conference, together with two of my colleagues, we conducted a workshop on “Neutron noise techniques for reactor diagnostics”. The workshop was attended by 26 participants. On the first day of the conference, together with Prof. Ritsuo Yoshioka, I chaired two parts of a special session on Molten Salt Reactors, which I organized. I was a co-author of four talks that were presented during the conference by myself and my colleagues.



➡ On 3 October I took part in a technical tour to the Fukushima site. Getting first hand information on the status of the damaged reactors and on the process of the reconstruction was one of the highlights of the visit.



On the bus at the Fukushima site.

After the Fukushima trip I stayed in Tokyo for one day, which allowed me to visit the famous fireworks, Hanabi, in Tsuchiura on 4 October. I also stayed in Tokyo on the weekend after. My lodging was kindly arranged by Prof. Tomoko M. Nakanishi of the University of Tokyo, another long term research contact. During that weekend we had a joint dinner with Prof. Nakanishi, my host for the present visit, Prof. Konno, and my host at my very first visit to Japan, also a JSPS short term fellowship, Prof. Kojiro Nishina. I even had the luck to be able to meet with Mr. Hideto Matsumoto, former secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Sweden, and Ms. Naomi Yoshizawa, formerly at the JSPS Stockholm Office.

Although the stay in Japan was relatively short, I feel I managed to utilise the time well and could both do interesting research as well as meet many colleagues and maintain, strengthen the contacts as well as transferring them to my younger colleagues.



Photo together with my host, Prof. Konno, as well as Prof. Tomoko M. Nakanishi, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Kojiro Nishina, emeritus from Nagoya University, taken at the Umenohana restaurant in Tokyo

Farewell from the former JSPS Alumni Club in Finland Chairman

By Dr. Antero Laitinen, Chairman 2008-2013



I remember that day well. It was 16th November 2007 when the founding meeting was held in the city of Helsinki Finland. The meeting was chaired by Professor Sano, Director of the JSPS Stockholm office and hosted by Professor Roos (Dept. of Physics, University of Helsinki). Present were further Dr. Antero Laitinen (Dept. of Process Chemistry, VTT), Dr. Kirsi Mononen (Dept of Physics and Mathematics, University of Joensuu), Ass. Prof. Kunio Shirasawa (Inst. of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University), Prof. Matti Leppäranta (University of Helsinki, Dept. of Physics), Dr. Eija Säilynoja (R&D, Stick Tech Ltd), Mrs Lisa-Mi Swartz (JSPS Stockholm office), Ms Rumiko Mouri (JSPS Stockholm office), Ms Rie Maeshiro (JSPS Stockholm office), Mr Fukuichiro Tanaka (Embassy of Japan) and Mr Hiroki Sakamoto (Embassy of Japan). We had a good discussion related to whether we should establish JSPS Alumni Club in Finland. In the end of the meeting, I was happy to hear that we decided to go for it. Later in the fall of 2008 the first Board was selected, and the Bylaw articles were written and accepted. I was selected to be the first chairman of the JSPS Alumni Club Finland.

When I now look back at those past six years, I see both success stories and some things I could have done better. The objective of the Club is to promote scientific exchange between Finland and Japan in contact with JSPS. In pursuit of this objective we had General assembly meetings and seminars, and many of these I think were very good. In particular I remember the seminars we had in Turku 2009 "functional foods, future perspectives of super conductors and cosmology", Espoo 2009 "ChemSheet - Advanced Multiphase Methods on Sustainable Materials and Processes", and Helsinki 2012 "Ice and Snow". We always had balanced amount of speakers from Japan and Finland in our seminars. I also have warm memories relating to 2008 and 2011 Seminars in Mekrijärvi close to the city of Joensuu. We had a chance to take a bath in one of the world best traditional smoke saunas when the sun was going down over the peaceful lake, and eat traditional Karelian food. That was a night to remember. Bridge co-operation proved to be an excellent form of collaboration, and we needed to select the best candidates from the good ones. There were so many good applications, that the mission was not that easy. However, I think that I did not have enough time to do my job in a way I sometimes wanted, especially during the second part of my chairmanship. The JSPS Board work is voluntary, and most of the Board members work for a company or University. Our loyalty belongs to these companies and Universities in the first instance, and there seemed to be less and less time available for voluntary jobs. We had ideas, and JSPS Stockholm office was there ready to support our ideas, but there was just lack of time.

There were also some challenges. In particular, it was difficult to activate members outside the cities they live. Finland is a country in which there is a lot of land and relatively few people. The distance between two Finnish cities is typically 150 km or more. Since traveling and accommodation are paid only for the Board members, it is hard to get regular member involved unless the General assembly meeting is held in their home town. I believe that excellent and interesting seminar program combined with entertaining and relaxing evening program is the solution. One issue the Board frequently discussed was of course the finance. We did not have our own cash meaning that we needed to ➡

➡ communicate with JSPS Stockholm in all cases. The communication was always easy, but sometimes I felt we could have had a more tempting program to activate members, if we had more freedom. One option is to act as a registered association in the future, and collect yearly fees to make sure that only those members who are active are involved, but this topic belongs to the active Board members now.

It is all about people, and for sure I had a chance to meet wonderful people. I especially want to thank JSPS Office people in Stockholm and Tokyo for their kindness and support. Thank you for giving me this opportunity ! I also want to thank those Board members and partners I worked with during the years 2007-2013, especially Emer. Prof Matts Roos and Prof. Matti Leppäranta both from University of Helsinki, Prof. Markku Hauta-Kasari from University of Eastern Finland, Dr. Eija Säilynoja from Stick Tech Ltd., Dr. Kristiina Jokinen from Universities of Helsinki and Tampere, Dr Tapani Jussila from Kanki International Oy, Dr. Markus Valkeapää from Aalto University, Dr. Joni Kujansuu from Helsinki University, and Dr. Tero Salomaa from Hokkaido University Helsinki Office.

I see a bright future for the JSPS Alumni Club Finland, and hope that the support will continue. The number of members in the JSPS Finland Club is now almost 100 including regular and associate members, and it is steadily growing. I think that in the world in which geopolitical interests are starting to shadow the open-minded globalization, co-operation like JSPS Alumni associations are needed more than ever. I was very delighted when we had a Board meeting at Helsinki on 27th Nov 2013, and Dr. Kristiina Jokinen was selected to be the Chairman of JSPS Finland Alumni Club. I knew that the Club will be in good hands. I wish all the best for the Club and for the new Chairman.



Photo taken in 2011, Mekrijärvi Joensuu.

Assyrian Policy towards Babylonia in the 7th Century BC

By Sanae Ito, Ph.D. Student in Assyriology, University of Helsinki

All Alumni Meeting was co-organized by the JSPS Stockholm Office, Hokkaido University Helsinki Office, and the Embassy of Japan in Finland on November 27, 2014 in Aalto University. I was given an opportunity to talk about my research field, Assyriology.

Introduction to Assyriology

The definition of Assyriology varies, but it is basically cuneiform studies in the Ancient Near East from 3000 BC to 331 BC by the time when Alexander the Great defeated Persia. Modern civilisation, culture, and religions are partly based on the Ancient Near Eastern invention. For example, the flood story of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible is very similar to the Epic of Gilgamesh. The notion of law was created as shown by the code of Hammurabi. Sexagesimal originated in the 3rd millennium BC and is still used for measuring time, angles, and geographic coordinates. In addition, beer and wine were already produced at least in the 4th millennium BC.

Birth of Assyriology

Before the excavation and the decipherment of cuneiform text, Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia were known from classical sources and Hebrew Bible. Their ruins had also been recognized by local people and were rediscovered by the Europeans. In the 19th century, a French scientist and archaeologist P.-E. Botta (1802-1870) excavated Nimrud and Nineveh that were the capitals of Assyria. He brought winged human-headed bulls from Nimrud to Paris. Sir A. H. Layard (1817-1894), an English politician and historian, also excavated Nimrud and Nineveh. In Nineveh, he uncovered Assyrian royal libraries, a collection of thousands of clay tablets in the 7th century BC. These clay tablets were brought into the British Museum. A German archaeologist R. Koldewey (1855-1925) conducted the first scientific archaeological excavations at Babylon between 1899 and 1917. The famous Ishtar gate was sent to Germany. During these excavations, the cuneiform script was deciphered in 1857. Hence this year is seen to be the official establishment of Assyriology.

Assyriology in Finland

Finland has long tradition of teaching Assyriology. Assyriology had been continuously taught by K. Tallqvist (1865-1949) and H. Holma (1886-1954) at the University of Helsinki since 1891, initially as a subfield of Oriental Literature, and since 1949, after A. Salonen (1915-1981)'s appointment, as an independent discipline. S. Parpola (1943-) was appointed to the personal chair of professor of Assyriology at the university in 1978. He made the institute one of the most important centres of Assyriological research through his project. With 120 years of teaching and research, the university has the fifth-longest tradition in the world. However, the university has not turned the chair into a regular one. After Parpola's retirement in 2009, no new professor has been appointed. This means that there is a concrete danger that Assyriology will disappear from Finland as an academic discipline.

Assyria and Babylonia

Assyria was located in northern Mesopotamia and became an empire in the 8th century BC. It reached its imperial peak in the 7th century BC and controlled almost all the Ancient Near East from modern Iran to Egypt. While Babylonia was in southern Mesopotamia and its capital Babylon was still the centre for Mesopotamian culture and scholarship. Babylonia came under the control of Assyria but revolts frequently took place.

Sennacherib (705-681 BC)

Upon his father's death in a battle field, Sennacherib, well known from the Hebrew Bible, took the throne of Babylonia and that of Assyria in 705 BC. One year later, he lost the Babylonian throne due to the rebellions but regained its control and installed a vassal king. Later, he replaced the vassal king with his own son, but an Elamite king invaded Babylonia, deposed him, and abducted him to Elam. After this incident, Sennacherib besieged Babylon and destroyed the city completely. The destruction of Babylon marked a turning point in Assyrian-Babylonian relations.

Esarhaddon (680-669 BC)

Sennacherib was murdered by his sons in 681 BC and succeeded by another son, Esarhaddon, who claims not to have been involved in the assassination. He immediately began a reconcile policy towards Babylonia. He rebuilt and repopulated Babylon, reconstructed temples throughout Babylonia, and restored statues of Babylonian deities. In Assyria, however, he constructed secular and military buildings probably to appeal the Assyrians. His policy towards Babylonia worked well, hence no rebellion took place in Babylonia during his reign. In 672 BC, he planned a revival



➡ of a somewhat more independent or separate kingdom of Babylonia as a part of the Assyrian Empire. He appointed his oldest son Šamaš-šumu-ukīn as the crown prince of Babylonia and another son Assurbanipal as the crown prince of Assyria, but the authority and power of the latter were actually much higher.



Photos taken during Ms. Ito's lecture on november 27, 2014.

Assurbanipal (668-c. 630 BC)

When Esarhaddon died on the way to the campaign against Egypt in 668 BC, Assurbanipal ascended the throne of Assyria and a year later allowed Šamaš-šumu-ukīn to ascend that of Babylonia. Since Assurbanipal was extremely interested in Babylonian wisdom and scholarship, he collected Babylonian scholarly and literary texts and preserved them in the archives at Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire at that time. Now these archives are called "Assurbanipal libraries".

Šamaš-šumu-ukīn's authority was very limited but ruled Babylonia for twenty years, initially as a loyal vassal of his brother. Eventually he rebelled against Assurbanipal in 652 BC and won wide support from central Babylonian cities, tribal groups in Babylonia and surrounding countries. In contrast to Sennacherib, Assurbanipal never destroyed Babylon, although he sometimes used the force. From the very beginning of the revolt, he tried to head it off by sending letters directly to social groups and bodies, including local governors, city councils, elders, and citizens. These letters cast new light on the change of the Assyrian royal image. Assurbanipal portrays himself as a true, perfect, and merciful king who provides ordinary people, his subjects, and even potential enemies with his favours. He clearly declares that he treats all the people equally. This was the innovative image in the Assyrian royal ideology.

The revolt was crushed in 648 BC. Šamaš-šumu-ukīn probably committed a suicide in Babylon. The major rebels were punished and Babylon was looted, but the city was not destroyed nor the population deported. The city and its citizens were treated generously and a new vassal king was enthroned in Babylon.

To conclude, Babylonia and Babylon were obstacles for Assyria to expand its empire in the south. Finding an effective way to rule Babylonia was a major problem for Assyria, and the problem was never really solved. While Babylon was a prize which the Assyrian kings wanted to acquire. Babylonia and Babylon clearly held a special place in the 7th century BC.

A New Guidebook on Japan: An Interdisciplinary Spin-off of Mombugakusho and JSPS scholarships

A Presentation at the JSPS Finland Alumni Club Seminar in Espoo, Finland, November 27, 2014

By Tapani Jussila



Sometimes a scholarship period in Japan can produce unexpected spin-offs. This presentation describes how the Mombusho and JSPS scholarships created for me the enthusiasm to write guidebooks on Japan. Furthermore, the new JAPANI-PASSI guidebook is introduced.

My first experience of Japan was the Mombusho scholarship. Its preparatory part, the first 6 months, took place in Osaka University of Foreign Studies (*Osaka Gaidai*) in 1981–82 for the purpose of learning basic Japanese. The main part of my Mombusho scholarship period took place in Tokyo University (*Tokyo Daigaku*) during 1982–84. I was a research student (*kenkyu-sei*) in mathematics, under the guidance of Prof. Kotaro **Oikawa** who was my host professor also during my first JSPS research fellowship a few years later. In 1998, I had another chance to be a JSPS fellow, this time in Osaka University under Prof. Takanori **Maesako**, as researcher of educational technology and virtual education.

The Mombusho and JSPS support influenced significantly my professional career. I completed my Dr. degree in mathematics in the University of Helsinki in 1988, with most of the contents of my dissertation based on knowledge and methods I had acquired during my scholarship periods in Japan. Afterwards I have taught mathematics in universities and polytechnics in Finland, Nicaragua, the Philippines and South Africa. Also my second JSPS fellowship in education influenced my career, especially because I participated as co-writer in several scientific publications with several Japanese and international researchers. I have also later continued research and consultancies in virtual and distance education and educational technology.

From the beginning of my Mombusho scholarship, I had a chance to get acquainted with Japanese culture and land, which later lead to activities as writer on Japan. The scholarship contained an intensive course of Japanese lan-

guage with culture classes which helped me significantly in getting to know the country and the people. The teachers in Osaka Gaidai were excellent and really made us interested in Japan. Being a member of a batch of about 150 students from about 50 countries around the world made me understand foreigners' points of views of Japan at a grassroot level, including challenges and also false prejudices towards Japan and the Japanese. The course contained extra-curricular activities, trips to places like Kyoto, Himeji and Misasa hot springs.

During my studies in Tokyo, "Uncle" Mombusho gave us even travel allowances for seeing more of Japan during student holidays. I travelled around Japan with trains, ferries and also unconventional means like hitch-hiking, walking and cycling. Hitch-hiking was actually a form of interdisciplinary activity, because I practised my *kanji* writing skills for preparing signs with names of destinations in order to catch rides, and talked with drivers who usually could speak only Japanese.

The Osaka Gaidai introduction to Japan was something very special, and actually some of us arranged a voluntary group comeback to Japan on October 6, 2011, exactly 30 years after our first arrival. The 10 "*ryugakusei samurais*" were from Canada, Brazil, Costa Rica, Australia, Iran, Belgium, Chile, Holland and Finland. We had a warm welcome by our nostalgic Osaka Gaidai, now renamed as the Mino Campus of Osaka University, and were able to meet again even some of our original teachers from 1981–82, for example **Okunishi-sensei** and **Yamamoto-sensei**.

My two JSPS fellowships deepened my understanding on Japan, in addition to my professional skills. I saw some exciting regions of Japan because of conference visits and JSPS travel allowances, and I had a chance to try various types of Japanese accommodation, which was a valuable additional experience for me, since during the Mombusho scholarship I only stayed in student dormitories. After the termination of my second fellowship I also extended my stay in Japan privately and experienced some real tourist life.

Writing guidebooks on Japan for Finnish people was a natural step, a spin-off of the Mombusho and JSPS scholarships. Between 1990–2014, I have written already 9 guidebooks on Japan for Finnish readers. My first

➡ guidebook was **TOKIO-PASSI** with information only on Tokyo and an introduction to Japanese culture and practicalities. Later books became thicker with information on Osaka, Kyoto, Nara and Nagoya added. The newest guidebook **JAPANI-PASSI**, published in January 2015, contains information on the whole of Japan, based on several months of recent grass-root investigation and legwork in Japan by myself and a group of assistants and "test persons". The new JAPANI-PASSI is a substantial 352-page information package of Japan. It contains introduction to Japan's cities, nature, seaside areas, smaller islands, mountains, hot springs, shopping, hotels, food and night

life, including menus and tips to several *izakaya* and other dining chains. The guidebook serves especially those individual Finnish visitors who wish to find the real Japan at a reasonable price. The most up-to-date issues in 2015 are the 3 % raise in almost all prices, new types of accommodation services and new very cheap airlines. Budget accommodation has become increasingly abundant during the last years, for example the number of low-priced hostels (1000–3000 yen per person) has increased heavily, and totally free lodging systems such as Couch Surfing and Wwoofing are getting more popular.



A Finnish scholarship student in Japan, combining kanji writing skills and exploring the country.

Seminar: Research and Study Possibilities in and on Japan

The Embassy of Japan in Finland, the Academy of Finland, Tekes, Asianet, University of Helsinki, Hokkaido University, MEXT alumni, JSPS Alumni Club Finland and JSPS Stockholm Office will co-organize a seminar on “Research and Study possibilities in and on Japan”. Presentations by the organizers, parallel sessions and a Japan Master thesis workshop for students will be held.

Date

May 11 (Monday)

Venue

Snellmanninkatu 12, Svenska social- och kommunalhögskolan-building, University of Helsinki, Finland

Registration

Please register for the event by sending an e-mail to culture@hk.mofa.go.jp with the following information no later than 30.04. (Thur):

- (1) Name
- (2) Organization, Position
- (3) E-mail address
- (4) Which part(s) of the event you will attend:
 - Morning session
 - Afternoon session
 - Lunch
 - Networking event

Speakers and detailed program can be found on <http://www.jsps-sto.com/activities.aspx>.

JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) Seminar: Future Diagnostics

JSPS Stockholm Office offers financial support to seminars organized by in cooperation with members of the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF). A seminar on Future Diagnostics will be held on May 21 in Turku, Finland, and the focus will be on viewing trends and possibilities in the future with lectures delivered by renowned experts.

Date

May 21 (Thursday)

Venue

University of Turku, Main Building, Lecture Hall II (2) Building T1

Invited speaker from Japan

- Dr. Seiji Shibasaki, Hyogo University of Health Sciences: “The recent challenges in red biotechnology – for accelerating the development of novel diagnostic tools and pharmaceuticals”

More speakers and detailed program can be found on <http://www.jsps-sto.com/activities.aspx>.

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