

# Japan the Horned Islands

## JSPS Nordic & Baltic Newsletter (2) 2009 Winter

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Stockholm Office

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Ojizou-san (stone deity)



Susuki (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

The newsletter can be accessed at the JSPS Stockholm homepage [www.jsps-sto.com](http://www.jsps-sto.com)

# I. Preface

## *Tradition* by Hiroshi Sano

People have dwelt in the Japanese archipelago for over 20,000 years. The population 5,000 years ago (BC 30) was estimated to be 260,000, and grew up to 4.5 million in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, when the first nation was founded in *Yamato* (Nara). Such population expansion sprung from the increase of food production, mainly rice cultivation. Its earliest record can be dated to 3,500 years ago, when the basic structure of paddy fields was established. Assuming that 200 grams of rice were necessary per person per day, the total annual yield is estimated to be 10,000 tons 5,000 years ago. It increased up to 20-fold during the following 4,000 years, probably due to the development of paddy fields and cultivation technology.

History teaches that science and technology advance not gradually but by steps. Perhaps the first leap in technology advance in Japan occurred between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in the period called *Muromachi*-era. Politically, this age was extremely unstable by endless contention among leaders. Despite of such social unrest, agricultural technology stably advanced, creating tools, watermills, irrigation canals, fertilizers and crop varieties including cotton, barley, mulberry (for silk worm cultivation), and many others. This age is also notable for establishing a prototype of culture; tea ceremony, *Noh*-play, textiles (*Nishijin-ori*), and the style of buildings represented by the golden- and silver-pavilions (*Kinkaku-ji* and *Ginkaku-ji* temples).

Who were then responsible for these creations? Unfortunately, workers and engineers involved in technology development were mostly anonymous. This may be because most inventions/creations were for practical use, the individual name of the inventor did not matter. When knowledge from practical experience was accumulated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, specialists and scholars compiled the information, which was helpful for the progress of society. As to agriculture, collection and classification of plants including crops and vegetables were undertaken by several outstanding botanists.

For example, *Kaibara, Ekken* (1630-1714) intensively surveyed higher plants and recorded 1362 species, among which 358 were native species. *Inou, Jakusui* (1655-1715) made a detailed index of plants based on field observation. *Matsuoka, Gentatsu* (1668-1746) finely classified varieties of orchids, bamboos, mushrooms and mosses. *Ono, Ranzan* (1729-1810) established the concept of natural history by describing classification, taxonomy and ecology of field-observed plant species. The results of their long work were published in huge volumes, some of which are still valuable today.



*Kaibara, Ekken (1630-1714)*

Curiously, the active period of Japanese botanists overlaps that of Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) and his pupils. During his professorship at the Uppsala University (1741-1778), he accomplished two great works; systematic classification of plants, and establishment of binomial nomenclature system. Contrary to Japanese botanists, whose achievements were only locally recognized, Linnaeus and his theory were world-widely admitted. In particular, the binomial nomenclature became the basic of classification not only for plants but also for all living organisms.

Contact between Japanese and Linnaean botanics was first made by Carl Thunberg (1743-1838). As one of more than 17 Linnaeus's apostles, Thunberg arrived in Japan in 1775, and actively collected plants during his stay until the end of 1776. In 1784, he published "*Flora Japonica*", in which he described 530 native species of Japan adopting the Linnaeus's binomial nomenclature system. One of the notable features of this book was that all corresponding Japanese names were identified and presented through referring many documents written by Japanese botanists. The book thus became a fundamental text for scholars in the world even today (A brief biographical sketch of C. Thunberg is given by the Ambassador A. Nakajima in this issue).

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Although 9000 km separate the Nordic countries from Japan, a scientific communication has been established 200 years ago. Today, taking advantage of such tradition, these countries could successfully set up a tight collaboration not only for the advance of scientific knowledge but also for powerfully coping with global problems that threaten the future of living organisms. (*Director, JSPS Stockholm Office*)

## II. Reports

### *JSPS Colloquium – Environment I* *“Sustainability of the Natural Environment”* by Rumiko Mouri

On 5 September, the JSPS Stockholm Office held a Sweden-Japan Joint Environment Colloquium on the theme “Sustainability of the Natural Environment.” The Stockholm School of Economics and Kyoto-University co-organized the meeting. It was attended by about 40 researchers and graduate students from Sweden and Japan.



*Colloquium participants outside SSE, Stockholm*

In recent years, global warming, climate change have come to the fore of international attention as pressing global issues. This colloquium was held to seek directions in devising countermeasures to such environmental issues by advancing an interactive agenda of leading-edge research reports and discussions.

At the opening of the meeting, Ambassador Akira Nakajima, Embassy of Japan in Sweden, expressed his hope that Japan and Sweden will carry forward collaborative research in such a way as to help meet the goal of the Hokkaido Toyako Summit, which is to cut in half the amount of greenhouse emissions by the year 2050. Speaking next, Prof. Hiroshi Sano, director, JSPS Stockholm Office, said he looked forward to the colloquium being a platform which is essential to solve global issue for presentations and discussions that interface related fields of the natural and social sciences.

In the colloquium’s first session, the two countries’ coordinators gave presentations on issues to be addressed. First, touching upon the current global environmental situation, Prof. Yoshihisa Shimizu, Kyoto University, said that it will require a

comprehensive and difficult process of political, economic and societal reform to solve prevailing environmental problems but that for this meeting it would be best to place focus on discussing and proposing ways to enhance environmental education as a measure toward tackling these problems. Then, describing the influence that corporations exert on society, Dr. Susanne Sweet, associate professor, Stockholm School of Economics, spoke about corporate responsibility as related to the environment and the need for corporate reform, using as reference case studies of the impact of distribution operations on the environment. To solve such problems, she suggested discussing ways to modify the value system underlying people’s selection of goods to purchase.

The second topical session focused on aqua-environmental protection, including presentations on ways of eliminating water pollution caused by pharmaceutical waste, such as wastewater management and environmentally sustainable sanitation systems, and on methods of environmental impact assessment.

The third session was on environmental education, including programs carried out in Japan and other Asian countries. In all three sessions, the latest research in both Japan and Sweden was reported along with the results of case studies.

Then, a panel discussion was held on the theme “Integrating sustainability in education.” Ms. Anna Lundin made a short presentation to overview international movement about education for Sustainable Development. Each university represented on the panel introduced its environmental education programs. While exchanging views on these programs, the panelists discussed concepts of environmental education and trends in its implementation, along with cultural differences that need to be grasped and correlated to move ahead international cooperation in this domain. The colloquium also featured a poster session carried out by the young researchers in attendance.

All in all, the event ended on a strong note of expectation—that the colloquium provided a valuable first step in promoting continued collaboration between Sweden and Japan in this globally significant arena. (*Deputy Director, JSPS Stockholm Office*)



## *CRC International Symposium in Stockholm*

by Masamichi Ogasawara

The main theme of this year's "CRC International Symposium in Stockholm" is "metal-catalyzed cross-coupling and related reactions". "Cross-coupling reaction" is organic transformation which connects a nucleophile (an electronically negative organic fragment) and an electrophile (an electronically positive organic fragment) to construct a more complex organic framework. Since the discovery of the first prototype of the transition-metal-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction by Kumada, Tamao, and Corriu in 1972, the reaction has been improved in many ways, and now it becomes a fundamental tool in synthetic organic chemistry and has been utilized for manufacturing pharmaceuticals, natural products, polymers, and electro-organic/opto-organic materials. For this year's symposium, eight "key players" in this field were invited from all over the world.

The first speaker was Prof. Ei-ichi Negishi (Purdue Univ., USA), who is known as an originator of the Negishi-coupling (a protocol using Zn/Al/Zr nucleophiles). Prof. Negishi described stereoselective preparation of complex polyene compounds by the use of the Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling and the Zr-catalyzed carbometalation. He also mentioned that he reported the first cross-coupling reaction using organoboron compounds. Prof. Jan-E. Bäckvall from Stockholm University talked about applications of Pd-catalyzed carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions with diene and/or allene substrates. The last speaker in the morning session was Prof. Emeritus Akira Suzuki (Hokkaido Univ., Japan), the developer of the Suzuki-coupling (a protocol using organoboron nucleophiles), and he described brief history and recent progress of the Suzuki-coupling reaction.

The afternoon session started with the presentation of Prof. Kohei Tamao (Riken, Japan). Prof. Tamao is widely acknowledged as one of the originators of the modern cross-coupling reactions and talked about historical background of discovery/progress of cross-coupling reactions as well as recent developments of Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions. The following speaker was Prof. Mats Larhed from Uppsala Univ. and he presented oxidative Heck reaction using organoboron species as nucleophiles. Prof. Irina P. Beletskaya (Moscow State Univ., Russia) described about applications of recyclable Ni- and Pd-catalysts in cross-coupling and Heck reactions.

After coffee break, the second half of the afternoon session started with a lecture by Prof. Michael G. Organ (York Univ., Canada). Prof. Organ has recently developed a so-called PEPPSI-catalyst, an extremely active Pd-catalyst for cross-coupling and Heck reaction, and talked about its application and modulation toward more active catalysts. Prof. Shengming Ma (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, China) gave a talk about Pd-catalyzed coupling reactions involving allenyl/propargyl metallic nucleophiles. The last speaker of the symposium was Prof. Tamejiro Hiyama (Kyoto University, Japan), and Prof. Hiyama described recently developed various methods forming new carbon-carbon bonds via cleavage of stable C-Si, C-C or C-H bonds.

The symposium ended with the closing remarks by Prof. Tamotsu Takahashi (Hokkaido Univ., Japan), the main organizer of the symposium. (*Ass. Professor, CRC, Hokkaido University*)



*Symposium speakers*



*Poster presenter*

# *The Nobel Prize Award Ceremony & the Nobel Week*

by Rumiko Mouri

The Nobel Prize award ceremony 2008 (except for the Peace Prize) was held on December 10th, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death, in the Concert hall inside Stockholm city. As usual, the banquet held in the City hall at the night were aired live on television. This is considered a grab-attention topic that brings life to Stockholm's people under a dark, cold winter. This year around 50 Japanese news media came to Stockholm because Japanese researchers were awarded the Nobel Prize in the fields of Physics and Chemistry. Most days of the week, news media flocked around the hotel where the Nobel Prize winners stayed and the places they visited. This article will show you the overview of the Nobel week as I perceived it.

## *-The Nobel Week-*

The week around the Nobel Prize award ceremony is called "Nobel Week". During this week, the Nobel laureates participate in various kinds of events by a strict schedule, together with the "Nobel Attaché". The first big task for laureates is "the Nobel Lecture". They give discourses at the Karolinska Institute for the laureate in physiology and medicine, and Stockholm University for the laureates in Physics, Chemistry and Economics, in front of a large audience including students. They talk about the research for the awarded Prize and its background. Professor Osamu Shimomura was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry due to the isolation of Green Florescence Protein (GFP). He lightened the GFP, which was extracted from about 20,000 jellyfish, in a test tube, and draw all attentions to the sight. He also talked about his hard time in Nagasaki where there were little place to study under the war, his feeling of being isolated in a laboratory due to a diffidence towards other researchers. At the end, he thanked former teachers and talked about his memory of catching tens of thousands of jellyfishes in the summer with his family and friends who supported his research. His lecture was finished with loud and long applauds from all the people in the venue.

In addition to the lecture, laureates take part in the receptions held by KVA, the Nobel Foundation and a media conference. They are also interviewed by television and visit some universities. Furthermore they attend an unveiled exhibition in Nobel Museum, and signing the backside of a chair in the cafeteria is also an annual event.



*Nobel Award ceremony*

## *-The Nobel Prize award ceremony and Nobel banquet-*

About 1,500 people took part in the ceremony in the Concert hall. Attendants were mainly; the Royal Family, laureates and their families, Nobel committee members and prize-awarding institutions, and guests like ambassadors, professors and administration officials in scientific fields. The ceremony started with live music by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. The Royal Family and laureates had a seat on the stage. Dr. Marcus Storch (the chair of the Board of the Nobel Foundation) opened the ceremony. In his address he talked about Nobel Foundation's task to choose those in science and culture who have made the greatest contributions to human progress. The basis of all human development is *knowledge* and the most important contributions come from universities, he stated. From this point, he mentioned three main tasks universities had; to be the memory of society, to be a cutting-edge and the critical mirror of society. He also quoted some trends which try to steer science towards the needs of the commercial sector without proper understanding of the challenges that humanity faces. This, he said, shows a lack of knowledge about the potential that is inherent in a scientific research system. Basic research is the single most important factor that will enable us to meet the challenges that humans are facing.

After Dr. Marcus Storch's address, the ceremony started. From each of the Nobel Prize committee, a members gave a statement of reasons for the prizes. The members delivered congratulatory addresses by the mother tongue of the laureates. Following this, the King of Sweden awarded the medals to them.



*Cheerful atmosphere at the Nobel Banquet*

After the stately conferment ceremony, a beautiful banquet was held in the City hall. The guests were laureates and their families, the Royal Family, the Nobel Committee, the Nobel Foundation members, the prize-awarding institutions, government-invitees and elected students. There were totally

around 1,300 people, about 90 main guests sat on a vertically long, main table, as one can see broadcasted live every year. Many people paid attention to the beautiful outfits of the Royal Family and guests. The dinner menu was provided by top chefs with flowers adorning the table, set with beautiful eating utensils. The banquet was interrupted by skilled stage performances. At the end of the banquet, participants had a dance party at the “Golden room” which walls are covered by a beaten gold. It lasted all through the night (the ceremony and banquet can be seen at the Nobel Foundation website; [http://nobelprize.org/award\\_ceremonies/events\\_2008.html](http://nobelprize.org/award_ceremonies/events_2008.html)) (Deputy Director, JSPS Stockholm Office).

## *Greeting from the JSPS Finland Alumni Club*

by Antero Laitanen

It all started in Finland on 16th November 2007 when the founding meeting was held in the city of Helsinki. The meeting was chaired by Professor Sano, Director of the JSPS Stockholm office and hosted by Professor Roos (Dept. of Physics, University of Helsinki.). After cordial opening words from the chairman, a presentation of current JSPS activities in Europe by the JSPS Stockholm office, and discussions about possible JSPS activities in Finland, it was decided to found the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland. The temporary Board of the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland was selected among the Finnish alumni present in the founding meeting.

This year 2008 has already been an active one. The general assembly meeting of JSPS Alumni Club Finland took place on April 11th-12th at Mekrijärvi research station located in Northern Karelia close to the Russian border (see JSPS Nordic&Baltic newsletter No.1). The meeting was hosted by Dr. Markku Hauta-Kasari from the University of Joensuu. The topic of the seminar was “speeding up Japanese-Karelian research co-operation” and we heard several interesting presentations related to this theme. Among others, Deputy Director Rumiko Mouri from the JSPS Stockholm office gave a presentation of JSPS activities and ways of operation. We also heard that in the field of optics and colour research the co-operation between Japanese partners and the University of Joensuu started in 1988, and almost 30 researchers have already visited Japan. Later in the evening we enjoyed Finnish culture, bathed in the smoke sauna, tasted delicious Karelian dishes

like Karelian pies, raw spiced white fish and mushroom salad.

The Annual seminar was held on September 3rd-5th in Rovaniemi, which is located in Northern Finland only a few kilometres south of the polar circle. More than 40 researchers participated in the joint Finnish-Japanese seminar on Northern environmental research which took place at the Rovaniemi Arctic Centre. The purpose of the seminar was to disseminate information on the themes which are relevant to the northern areas both in Finland and Japan, exchange and increase scientific expertise on northern issues, initiate concrete research projects, initiate preparation of funding applications for co-operation projects, and increase student and scientist exchange. Several excellent presentations related to forest management and biodiversity, landscape, land use changes, cryosphere, and long-term monitoring.

The JSPS Finland Alumni Club Board meeting was integrated in the Annual seminar agenda. In this meeting and the following yearly General assembly meeting it was decided that the Board members of the JSPS Alumni Club Finland for the next three years are Dr. Markku Hauta-Kasari (University of Joensuu), Prof. Paula Kankaanpää (University of Lapland), Dr. Antero Laitinen (VTT Technical research centre of Finland), Prof. Matti Leppäranta (University of Helsinki), Prof. Matts Roos (University of Helsinki), and Dr. Eija Säilynoja (Sticktech Ltd.). Dr. Laitinen was selected to be the chairman and Prof. Leppäranta holds the vice-chair of the Board.

Even though we are a young Club, our number has already started to grow rapidly totalling 31 at the moment (including applications). It is the duty of the Board to take advice from the Members and act accordingly. As part of the JSPS Alumni Club family we share the common objective to promote international research collaboration between Japan and Finland including academia and industry. I will actively support and execute all projects and activities decided by the Board of the JSPS Finland Alumni Club, highlight possibilities for researcher exchange and co-operative initiatives, and sustain good teamwork spirit.



*Laitanen Sr & Jr*

I had the opportunity to work in AIST at Tsukuba during 2001-2002 after I received my JSPS post-doc funding. I had the time of my life. I found Japanese people kind and gentle, always willing to help if I needed. I stayed in a brand-new dormitory with floor-heating system and other up-to-date equipment. The Japanese work ethic was also impressive. Thanks to my colleague, I managed to fulfill my scientific objectives as well. My Japanese colleague sometimes worked very hard, and late in the evening opened his sun lounger and slept in the laboratory. I hope it was not because of me and that I didn't increase his work load too much. I also fell in love with the Japanese food, especially sushi and sashimi.

I want to thank you for selecting me as new chairman of the JSPS Finland Alumni Club. As I write this, the leaves have started to fall but we can still see the beautiful colours of nature and occasionally enjoy the sunny and bright autumn days. Soon it will be time to plan for the year 2009. (*Chairman of JSPS Finland Alumni Club*)

## *Sweden Alumni Club – Interview* with Chair Jan Sedzik

LM: Good morning Jan-san how are you today? Tell me, since when did you start your contacts with Japan?

JS: Konnichiwa Lisa-Mi san, I am fine, and I am still eager to go to Japan, to Nagoya, to the National Institute of Neurobiology and Bioinformatics, I will be staying there for almost one year. This is already my fifth trip to Japan....

LM: ..... evidently you like Japan

JS: Of course, I like Japan, it is a very old culture, super modern electronics, beautiful landscape, beautiful historical places. I do not feel that I am lost by lack of knowledge of the Japanese language; kanji, katakana and hiragana are very easy to learn. Problem is only time and stubbornness and total memory size of my brain (ideally 1 Gb would be sufficient). When I was in Japan for the first time, the Physiology Department of Keio University (with the support of JSPS) provided me also with a Japanese tutor. I had lessons twice a week and I learned a lot, I could read and write simple text, and have simple conversations with my friends, but I have forgotten ...

LM: Where in Japan were you and for how long?

JS: If I count all the periods, it is almost 4 years; 2 years at Keio University, 3 months in Tsukuba National Laboratory, 1.5

years at Osaka University, 3 months at Kagoshima University. It was the most enjoyable time I had in my life....

LM: in what sense...

JS: What I like the most in Japan is the spirit of collaboration and team work which I have experienced. In other places there is too much effort focused on competition, grant can be awarded only on competitive basis; job is not awarded if you have one publication less than your competitor, there is no chance of planning of your carrier. For example in the last 10 years I have made 5x applications for exchange visits to do research in Japan, and 5x were granted. In other places I have made for example 14x applications and only once was I successful. What does this mean? There is not enough money to please everybody, this is true, but it is also very impressive how much time and energy or papers (applications weighted very often 2 kg) had to be spent, to turn down as many as 70-90% of the applications.

For me it is very unusual, that JSPS, spent so much money for promotion of science in other countries, but at the same time takes care about its alumni. The JSPS Alumni Clubs are distributed worldwide. All people who were in Japan may still have direct contact with Japan, and serve in best capacity for the development



of Japanese science. This is an excellent concept of promoting exchange and understanding between ordinary people. There are



*Jan Sedzik and Prof. Shimura, founder of Swedish Alumni Club Association in 2004.*

two ways to get support from the JSPS, one way is that you find some sponsor (or sponsor finds you), who on your behalf, will be organizing your stay in his lab; the second way is that you ask to be nominated to get support. Both ways are less stressful, and take less paper work than the normal way of strict deadlines, lot of enclosures, recommendation letters, and reviewers do not need to write long reports whom to reject, or not to give priority. In reality, if someone has sincere interest in Japan, it is very welcome there. I must say I like such system of inviting people. Financially, Japan is very attractive even now when the yen has a low value, I can get more Swedish kronors, just by simple currency exchange, (it will be enough to pay a ticket for my family, JSPS is not supporting family members). In addition there is no tax on cultural exchange activities; tax on salary is only 5%.

LM: If you would be allowed to settle in Japan which place would you choose...

JS: Definitely in Tokyo, Harajuku or Shinanomachi areas for summer, very nice parks, lot of interesting places, including the church I was going to. Harajuku is not far away from beautiful Hakone, Kamakura, to the beaches, to Narita airport, to the sacred place called Akihabara (I am a fanatic of modern electronics), and plenty very good restaurants. Local ward takes very good medical care of residents. TV has hundreds of programs you can choose in a few languages. I have experienced only once a very strong earthquake. For winter only Kobe is another place I would like to be, very close to the seashore, lot of attractions, mountains, good food and very vibrant atmosphere, very friendly people...

LM: We have talk much about Japan, please tell us about yourself.

JS: I am 35++, and of polish origin. In Poland I did my university studies and took my Ph.D, After my dissertation I went to the USA as post doc for one year. In Poland during that time, it was a very unstable political situation, and martial law was installed. I had a return ticket with the Polish airline, but I could not

return home because of economical sanction imposed on Poland by other countries; flights to and from Poland to the USA were banned. In addition I experienced a heavy financial burden when my son was born. My scholarship was 1,000 USD per month, not enough to pay rent for apartment, to pay insurance, and medical bills, and travel back. When communication with Poland was reinstalled we returned on one of the first flights, but that was four years later. In meantime I got an offer to come to Uppsala University, continuing my previous work, and this was how I arrived in Sweden. After a few years I returned to the Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital in Boston, to continue my research, I was there 3 years, I am interested in neurochemistry and structural biology of myelin proteins; it means how to purify proteins, how to crystallize them and how to solve its structure, in order to understand how the nervous system works even during pathology. This is in brief my field of interest.



*Very healthy food served in student's cafeteria, my favorite place of eating lunches.*

My first contact with Japan was in 1989. I met Prof. Uyemura at a neurochemical meeting in Algarve, Portugal. I knew all his publications on myelin membrane proteins. Prof. Uyemura asked me if I wanted to come to his lab in Japan. In 1990 there was no JSPS office in Stockholm, there was only one deadline per year. I had missed one deadline, the repeated re-applications were unsuccessful, and it took me 6 years to succeed. I arrived to Tokyo in April 1996. I was granted only 4 months stay, but my stay was extended later up to 2 years. It was a very enjoyable time, I could do what I wanted to do, and money was very good. After that I went for a few months to Tsukuba, and after that to Osaka University, to the famous Institute for Protein Research. I was there 1.5 years. After returning to Sweden I settled at KI, and three years ago I went to Kagoshima University again. At present I am at KTH, and now I feel I must go to Japan again....

LM: What are your plans regarding activities of the JSPS Sweden Alumni Club.

JS: I wish everybody to have such good time as I had in Japan, this will be the driving force of my activities. To bring closer the Kingdom of Sweden and the Monarchy of Japan. Sweden has had



contacts with Japan since the time of Carl von Linné, but at present only a few persons per year are going as researchers to Japan on support of JSPS. Another problem is that the stay (work or study) in Japan, should be possible to credit to the social security in Sweden for i.e. A-kassa. I will also be promoting bilateral collaboration with Japan, these are indeed my duties as described in the articles of the Alumni Club. We also have to work towards increasing the members of the Club and to plan attractive and unique activities with other European Clubs. Since I am Polish, I

would be delighted to have Poland included in the “jurisdiction” of the JSPS Stockholm Office. My wish is also that my son would go to Japan sometime, and enjoy tasty and healthy food, and meet other people.

LM: Thank you Jan, I wish you a successful stay in Japan, and we meet again in March 2009, on the meeting of all European Alumni Clubs,

JS: Domo arigatogozaimasu, and konbanwa.

### ***JSPS Sweden Alumni Club Seminar Held in Gothenburg by Stig Allenmark***

A one day seminar on the topic “*Marine Toxins – From Biosynthesis to Health Aspects*” was held in Gothenburg at the Department of Chemistry on October 3, 2008. The seminar was preceded by a board meeting, the outcome of which is presented elsewhere. Two invited speakers contributed to the seminar. Professor Hiroshi Nagai from the Department of Ocean Science, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, gave a lecture with the title “*Toxins from the marine venomous animals*”, which gave an interesting account of the diversity of toxic marine organisms, notably jellyfish, sea anemones and corals, belonging to the waters around Okinawa. Prof. Nagai’s group in Tokyo has elucidated the structures of a large number of the toxins, most of which are proteins, present in these organisms. The second invited speaker was Dr. Erik Selander from The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences, University of Gothenburg, whose contribution had the title “*Marine Toxins in Swedish Seas*”. The lecture had a certain focus on the compounds causing shellfish poisoning (DSP and PSP) via edible mussels and further gave an interesting view of the rich and diverse fauna found in Swedish waters.

In the afternoon a majority of the 20 participants enjoyed an almost two hour’s guided tour in the Botanical Gardens which harbours a particular Japanese section. From the highest point in the area, the visitors had a very nice view of the northern part of

Gothenburg, Hisingen. Fortunately, the weather was fine with no need for any umbrellas.



*Gothenburg Botanical Garden*

The day in Gothenburg ended with a dinner on board a ship in the harbour, S/S Marieholm (anchored and not moving). In accordance with the overall marine theme, there was fish on the menu (like it had been for lunch, although then in Japanese style). After a pleasant evening and an interesting day, it was time to leave the ship and for the visitors from Stockholm and Uppsala to catch the X-2000 train via a short walk past the opera house to which we had previously made a short visit. (*Professor, Department of Chemistry, Gothenburg University*)

## II. Science & Culture

### *What We See in Carl P. Thunberg*

by Akira Nakajima

Carl Peter Thunberg, a disciple of Carl von Linné, set foot on Japanese soil in 1775 in the port city of Nagasaki as the doctor of the trade mission held there by the Dutch, who at the time, when the country closed its doors to ward off external influences that might undermine the Shogun's government, were the only Westerners admitted to this remote and unknown nation called Japan. Thunberg, therefore, was practically unique in being able to directly and closely observe Japan, its fauna and flora as well as its inhabitants, from a scientist's as well as a Westerner's point of view.

Upon returning to Sweden, he was understandably eager to share what he had seen with his own eyes, the substance of which should have been, in the Europe of that time, rare and precious findings.



*Thunberg Collection, Uppsala University*

An outstanding example of what he offered is found in a precious collection of plants and flowers, dried and catalogued, that remains in the secured and air-conditioned room of the Evolution Museum at Uppsala University, available in a very well preserved state to interested researchers. Thanks to the University, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to see these specimens that have traveled to Sweden across almost half the globe and across several centuries in time.

In addition, Thunberg, on his leaving the presidency of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, gave a farewell lecture and chose Japan as its subject-matter. The lecture was a concise but comprehensive account of Japan, its mores, its institutions and its people such as he understood them from his first-hand observation during his sojourn and particularly during his trip from Nagasaki to the capital city of Edo as a member of the

Dutch trade delegation whose purpose was to pay respect to the Shogunate in the capital.

A publication in 2007, the tercentennial of von Linné's birth, reproduces the lecture in full and gives also its English translation. With the text in hand, we can virtually experience being a part of the audience who listened carefully to what he had to say about Japan some 225 years ago. It was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1784, and it stirs the imagination to think about a sumptuous but dimly lit hall filled with leading men of knowledge listening carefully to an eloquent and detailed explanation of the characteristics, some admirable and some peculiar, of the Japanese nation, presumably in an interested but detached air.

Thunberg observed that the Japanese were clean ("They bathe and wash not just once a week, as did our forefathers, but every day, ..."), courteous ("In courtesy, obedience and humility, the Japanese have few equals."), honest ("Honesty and loyalty are shown throughout the country, and probably in very few other countries is there so little theft or larceny."), but superstitious ("Superstition is more widespread in this nation and more important to its people than perhaps in the case of any other people, which is due to the limited understanding they have of most of the sciences and the distorted principles which their mythology instills in them."). The account exceeds a hundred pages and tells also about what they eat, how they clothe themselves and where they live.

Thunberg's adventure, for it was indeed an adventurous deed to go as far as to the Far East, and the knowledge he reaped prompt me to make a few observations.

The first is the all too self-evident fact that Carl Peter Thunberg, the serious scientist, was a keen and objective observer of what he saw and greatly contributed to introducing Japan and the Japanese to that Europe which, in the age of enlightenment, was curious to learn about all phenomena, be it natural, human or otherwise. He was a precious guide to the Europeans, all the more so because he was a genuine academic and because so little was known about that country. It can be said that Thunberg largely shaped European perceptions about the land of the rising sun, and, his work was a harbinger of today's strong Euro-Japanese relations.

The second observation is more about how we see things.

Thunberg could not have been closer to Japan when he carefully made his observation, but notwithstanding this fortuitous situation, he was, in fact, peering through a telescope. Why is this so? Because he was, as all observers do, selecting facts to retain and others to discard. What he noted as Japan was Thunberg's Japan. This process of perception also is true in respect of the natural sciences, for which we commonly believe that the principle of objectivity is the golden rule. After all, what attracted Charles Darwin, as a naturalist on HMS Beagle, were the small differences in the finches and tortoises in the different islands in the Galapagos Archipelago.

The third observation is about history. What is history? I would say that history is a compilation of facts about the past in order to better discern the future. History by nature is rewritten every day.

In creating history, there is a choice as regard what facts to retain and what others to ignore. It is a deliberate selection process colored by the author's concerns and interests. Historians and critics in Japan are currently revisiting the country's history in an attempt to give new meaning to traditional values and to re-explain modern Japan from a non Western angle. How could it modernize as swiftly as it did if it did not have the receptive capacity within to digest and adapt foreign ideas and techniques? We are reminded that Thunberg had said that the Japanese were honest but superstitious, loyal but ignorant. It would be interesting to know how Thunberg's account of Japan, as reference material, would bear on the on-going historical debate about what made the country he saw the Japan of today. (*Japan's Ambassador to Sweden*)

## ***Education & Sustainability for Overcoming "Lower Dominating Upper"***

by Yoshihisa Shimizu

The majority of us do not notice the seriousness of environmental problems in the 21st century. We think that we can still manage it. We might set the economical development as our first priority, not the environmental issues. This is because we are captured by an old idea (growth paradigm); we believe in the growth of productivity and economy.

Sometimes we get surprised in our daily life; a car does not try to make room for an ambulance, a person rush to the counter from the rear of a long queue of people waiting in a line. I also came across a car that stopped right in front of a bus stop. A bus came along, and it had to stop at a lane close to the centerline and begun to drop passengers off; the road was totally blocked.

The short-term personal profit and the private small value are taken top priority, and the universal value (e.g., social justice, justice and public interests) is sometimes ignored. I would like to call this phenomenon "the lower dominating the upper of a sense of values." The value which should be located in the upper part has been transferred to the substratum with "the lower dominating the upper of a sense of values." I think "the lower dominating the upper of a sense of values" is the key. My hypothesis is that there would not be so many problems if the world and/or our human mind were not so occupied with this. I imagine that the problem with the traffic manners and cutting in a line, and environmental issues, occurred because the value of the upper part was taken over by the value of the substratum. An emergency ambulance transport is to achieve the noble value of rescuing a life. It is apparent that the driving of an individual car

also is to reach the destination and has a value at some level. At one level this value could be regarded as the value which should be given precedence over the value to maintain the noble life.

Economic activity is originally nothing more than the mechanism to achieve the noble value to achieve human happiness and welfare. The secondary value, as the financial expansion becomes supremacy, and the value of environment, nature and culture has been ignored, is the dominance of the economical value. The progress of science and technology has grown so that the resources demanded for the human economy exceeded the recycling ability of the global ecosystem. As a result, exhaustion of resources and the degradation of environment have developed all over the world, which is threatening the high-level value of the human happiness and welfare. It would be necessary to conquer the "lower dominating the upper" state for a solution. First we must be aware that there is a difference between dominants and subordinates in the value. We must judge which value is relatively low, and which value is dominant, and then we must act accordingly. Now, such paradigm shift is required and desired in the world, and everyone is expected to show a keen and courageous behavior so we can return *via* a reverse paradigm to something more normal than the paradigm which ruled the second half of the 20th century. All of us need to think of "Education" and "Sustainability." (*Professor, Research Center for Environmental Quality Management, Kyoto University*)

## *Sea Ice Climate in the Okhotsk & Baltic Seas* *- A Long-Term Research Program-* by Kunio Shirasawa

The Okhotsk and Baltic Seas belong to the seasonal sea ice zone of the World Ocean. In both seas the length of the ice season is 5-6 months, and scientific as well as many practical ice problems are quite similar. Comparative studies for better understanding the ice and ice season in these seas have been carried out by ice groups of Hokkaido University and University of Helsinki in a Japanese-Finnish co-operative program "Ice Climatology of the Okhotsk and Baltic Seas" since 1995. Extensive field experiments to study physical, chemical and biological sea ice processes and the air-sea-ice interactions through the whole ice season have been performed in the Baltic and Okhotsk Seas in 1999-2001. Meanwhile, the project "Baltic Air-Sea-Ice Study (BASIS)" was carried out in 1997-2000 to create and analyze an experimental data set for verification and optimization of coupled atmosphere-ice-ocean models, as a part of the BALTEX (Baltic Sea Experiment) program. Those collaborative investigations have been mainly funded from the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Academy of Finland (AF), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

After five years of collaborative investigations, a seminar "Sea Ice Climate and Marine Environments in the Okhotsk and Baltic Seas – The Present Status and Prospects" was organized by Hokkaido University and University of Helsinki through the JSPS-AF bilateral exchange program. The seminar was held in

the Archipelago Research Institute, Seili, Finland, 10-13 September 2001. The purpose of the seminar was: to review and summarize the project "Ice Climatology of the Okhotsk and Baltic Seas"; to discuss the results from the field experiments in both seas; to review and present the outcome of BASIS experiment; to present results of sea-ice ecology programs; to discuss links between geophysical and biological programs; to discuss and suggest future collaborative programs.

Further joint field experiments have been expanded into other coastal areas in the Baltic Sea and inland lakes in the southern Finland and northern Lapland. A joint educational program for graduate students "Field course on sea ice geophysics and ecology" organized by Hokkaido University and University of Helsinki was arranged in Tvärmini Zoological Station, the Baltic Sea and alternately at Saroma-ko Lagoon, the Okhotsk Sea. This program has increased mutual visits and exchange for young scientists and graduate students.

It is indeed delightful that the JSPS Alumni Club was founded in Finland, and the Joint Finnish-Japanese Seminar on Northern Environmental Research is organized by the support of the AF, JSPS and the Finnish Institute in Japan, to provide us with the opportunity for initiating concrete collaborative research programs in northern regions in Finland and Japan. (*Ass.Professor, Pan-Okhotsk Research Center, Hokkaido University*)



*Measurements on the ice at Saroma-ko Lagoon, the Okhotsk*

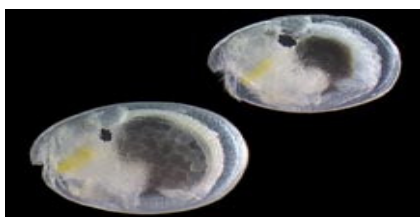


*Floating platform in the ice at Santala Bay, the Baltic Sea*



## *The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008* by Richard A. Reymont

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded this year for the discovery and application of *Green Fluorescent Protein* (GFP). The initiative for studying bioluminescence came from interest in the “marine firefly” of Japan, “umihotaru”, or *Vargula hilgendorfi* (Müller). The presentation of the subject matter at the Nobel meeting in the Royal Academy of Sciences last October created more than the usual interest, particularly among members of the biological fraternity present. Firstly we were puzzled by reference to the microscopic ‘molluskan species’ *Cypridina*, but after a few moments it became apparent that the confusion was due to a misunderstanding on the part of the chemists. Ostracods are not mollusks but bivalved crustaceans. Of particular Swedish interest is the fact that the genus *Vargula* was erected in 1920 by the Uppsala biologist Tage Skogsberg..



*Vargula hilgendorfi* (Müller), Tateyama, Japan.

Working under Professor Yoshimasu Hirata (Nagoya), Osamu Shimomura was given *Vargula* as an object for a PhD thesis with the end in view of isolating the protein related to the phosphorescence displayed by umihotaru. Shimomura was able to identify the source of the phenomenon but was not successful in isolating the protein. On completing his doctoral thesis Osamu was quickly recruited to the USA where he found that a species of jellyfish, to wit *Aequorea victoria*, was more amenable to biochemical manipulation. Out of this humble beginning has grown a highly useful technological field of immense value in medicine.

Half of the prize was awarded to Osamu Shimomura (now 80+ years of age) and a quarter each to two Americans who have been concerned with applications (one of whom is an American Chinese). The scientific report can be downloaded from the Website of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Umihotaru is well known in the coastal waters of parts of Japan and is a popular creature among tourists, for example, at Tateyama. Under favourable circumstances, nearshore waters are “illuminated” at night in purple due to the phosphorescent properties of the ostracod. The principal modern student of umihotaru was Professor Katsumi Abe who set up an advanced laboratory at the University of Shizuoka. *Vargula* was shown by Abe to possess anatomical properties not common in the Ostracoda. Abe and I published several scientific papers dealing with the variation of the species, work that could be carried out largely thanks to the JSPS exchange programme and grants from the Dunker Fund, Lund.

Abe and family (7 people in all) were frequent visitors to Uppsala University over the period 1987 to 1993 which also included fieldwork under the aegis of the University of Málaga.

Katsumi Abe’s brilliant scientific career came to a sudden dramatic close in August 1998 when he was killed outright in a road accident. He was 45 years of age. His death was an irreparable loss to the world in the field of experimental palaeobiology.

I am grateful to Katsumi’s widow, Sakae Abe (Shimizu), for the pictures accompanying this brief note.

(LVA, Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences)

# *Consumer Relationships on Organic Food Markets in Sweden*

by Ingrid Stigzelius

A new “green wave” of organic food is now sweeping over Sweden with new products and actors entering the organic food market. In 2007 the overall sales increased with 30 percent, and the organic food production has now difficulties to keep in pace with the growing demand.

The market increase can partly be explained by the driving force of the public sector and traditional food retailers that have taken on new roles in the promotion of organic food. The Swedish government has set political goals that 20 percent of the arable land should be organically certified and that 25 percent of the food consumption in the public sector should be organic no later than 2010. The three major retailers in Sweden (ICA, Coop & Axfood) have also developed and promoted their private labeled organic brands.

Another reason for the market growth is also the small-scale innovative business solutions that play an increasingly important role in providing alternative distribution channels, e.g. internet ordering with home delivery systems and farmers markets. In these new market settings the distribution chain between producer and consumer has been shortened, which changes the way consumers and sellers interact. The consumer is more directly faced with the seller, which brings the attention to the importance and nature of relationship between the two. Thus, the research questions are: *of what importance is the consumer-seller relationship in the organic food market development? How is the nature of the relationships varying in these new market places compared to traditional markets?*



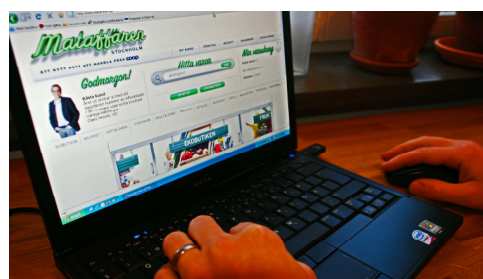
Relationships has previously been described as an important mechanism for coordination and development of the market, but has mainly been studied from a business-to-business perspective. Consumer capacities to act in various exchange relationships have earlier not been given much attention, neither within consumer

marketing nor within business-to-business marketing. By including the consumer perspective in conjunction with the business-to-business relationships, the importance and various natures of relationships between consumers and sellers in the construction of market places may be understood more thoroughly.

The consumer perspective in exchange relationships around organic food will be addressed through a joint research project that is currently underway within the Sustainability Research Group (SuRe) at Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) and the Department of Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

In order to answer the research questions, a number of qualitative case studies of consumer relationships at various market settings are planned; a traditional food retailer; internet-stores with home delivery systems; farmers market; and small exclusive organic shops.

A pilot study has been made of an internet based food store, *Mataffären.se*. It was recently initiated by one of the major food retailers in Sweden, Coop, in order to ease the situation for their consumers, especially young parents with a shortage of time. *Mataffären.se* displays the food at the Internet and provides an ordering system with home delivery services. The food products then get delivered right to the consumers' door by biogas driven vehicles. The focus of *Mataffären.se* is easy access, quality, social responsibility, the environment and organic food. The “eco-store” at *Mataffären.se* displays around 600 organic food products in a separate section, which makes it easy to buy organic.



According to the CEO of *Mataffären.se*, the consumer is even more in focus compared to a

traditional food store. Since Mataffären.se has gained the consumers confidence to pack and deliver the food products, they want to maintain that trust by providing high quality products and services.

Since the information exchange takes place over the Internet with no physical consumer contact, the customer support via email/phone and personal directed

advertisements becomes even more important. Special offers are presented in personal letters, signed by the CEO. The only actual personal contact takes place when the products are delivered, so the chauffeur that delivers needs to represent Mataffären.se in a good manner. (*PhD candidate, SLU*)

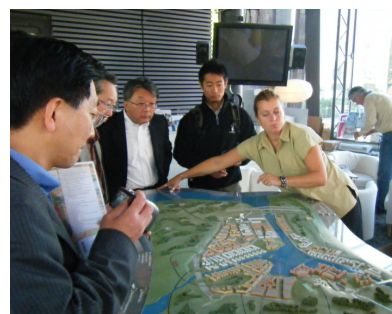
## *Back to Stockholm after One Year* by Hidenori Harada

It was my second visit to Stockholm, one year after I stayed there as a visiting researcher at the EcoSanRes Programme, Stockholm Environment Institute from May to October 2007. Although I expected that the wonderful Swedish summer had already gone, I luckily had some nice sunshine, as if summer came back again for our visit, and I definitely enjoyed my stay in Stockholm.

Even before the JSPS colloquium, I knew that the place of colloquium, the Stockholm School of Economics, has a long history. However, I had not visited the historical building which gate I almost hesitated to open due to the grand-tradition atmosphere. In contrast to the gate, inside the building was a modern and functional architecture. The mixture seemed to come from the Swedish mind, which seems to place a great deal of importance on traditions as well as functionality. In such a wonderful building, I attended a series of interdisciplinary presentations and discussions. Especially the panel session on environmental education based on a structured and practical minded approach was interesting for me.

For my own part, it was a great honour to receive the best poster award for my poster presentation “Sanitation facilities in Hanoi, Vietnam ~ the current state and its possible improvement ~”. It was based on the research results of a more than one-year field research in Hanoi, Vietnam. In which I proposed, as a measure of sanitation improvement, the improvement of septic tank management on a household level and evaluated its quantitative effect on septic tank treatment performance. I

had a good opportunity to discuss my research with Professor Yoshihisa Shimizu, Associate Professor Susanne Sweet, and many other participants. Together with the award, I received wonderful commemorative gifts (Swedish designed stationeries). It became an honourable memory for me, and I felt very happy since I received it in one of my favourite cities in the world. It serves as a source of encouragement to forwarding this research furthermore.



*Glashuset; ecological map of Hammarby sjöstad*

Together with the colloquium, I had a great opportunity to visit Hammarby Sjöstad as a study trip presented by JSPS. In Glashuset, we saw a wonderful concept and an actual example of a sustainable town, called “The Hammarby Model”, in which various elements for sustainability were integrated. Although it should not be directly adapted to Japan, it must be a valuable reference to an environmentally friendly and integrated town planning for Japan as well as other countries.

Even though my stay in Stockholm was quite short, it was a greatly meaningful time. I would here like to

express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in this colloquium. I hope this will become a new start for future collaboration on sustainability research between Sweden and Japan. I will come back to Stockholm! (PhD, Research Center for Environmental Quality Management, Kyoto University)



Hammarby sjöstad

## ***Introduction to a New Permanent Exhibition of Japanese Objects at The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm*** by Petra Holmberg

The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (Östasiatiska museet), located in the middle of Stockholm on the island of Skeppsholmen, is a place for meeting Asia. The museum opened on its present site on Skeppsholmen in 1963, but was established already in 1926 with H.M. King Gustav VI Adolf as one of the founders. Since 1999, the museum is part of the governmental institution of National Museums of World Culture in Gothenburg.

The museum houses collections of Asian objects, covering archeological, art and some everyday objects. The largest collections are from China, but it also has important collections from Japan, Korea, India and other South and South East Asian countries. The Japanese collections numbers more than 3500 objects. The precise number is yet to be researched.

The first permanent exhibition of Japanese art was taken down in 2002 because of restoration of the museum. Since then only temporary exhibitions on Japanese topics have been available for the general public. Among the various temporary exhibitions can be mentioned two very popular, one on Japanese comic art, *manga* (“*Manga*-from Hokusai to Dragonball”, 2004) and one exhibition on the Japanese tattoo (*irezumi*; “Horiyoshi III- The Art of the Japanese Tattoo”, 2005). The most recent was “Contemporary Japanese Crafts” (in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Sweden and the Japan Foundation, 2008).

Now we are planning a new permanent exhibition of Japanese objects! At last, the public gets to see a lot of Japanese objects on permanent display. Permanent in this case means around ten to fifteen years. The latest permanent exhibition to open at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (Östasiatiska museet) was one on

China, called “The Middle Kingdom”, opened in autumn 2007.



Ewer in *negoro* lacquer on wood  
(Békèsy-021)  
Late Momoyama period (1573-1600)

The Japanese exhibition is planned to open autumn 2010. In the team working with it one finds for example Dr. Eva Myrdal, project leader, curator and art historian Petra Holmberg, temporarily employed curator Dr Ewa Machotka (specializing in wood-block prints) and conservator Mrs. Anna Boström. It takes a long time to make a permanent exhibition – it is made to “last” in many senses. It needs to have a content that is fairly actual for a long time, itself a contradiction in terms. Also, it needs to be climatized to house the various objects on display for long time, including a plan to “rotate” or change the objects during certain intervals. Unfortunately, our resources are scarce and this will obviously be a very big challenge for us to solve. Many objects, like lacquer, pictorial art on paper or silk, textile objects etc need different climate and have to be changed which, in the best of worlds, would have to take place four times a year. The changing is made by conservators, a kind of staff we are very poor of since re-organization our staff quite recently. One other aspect is also that the exhibition will



be “used” by younger people like school-classes and generally should have an approach that is understandable for younger adults.



Tea bowl (*chawan*). Attributed to Sonyu (1664-1716)  
5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Raku family of *raku* ceramics  
lack *raku* ware. (HM-2159)

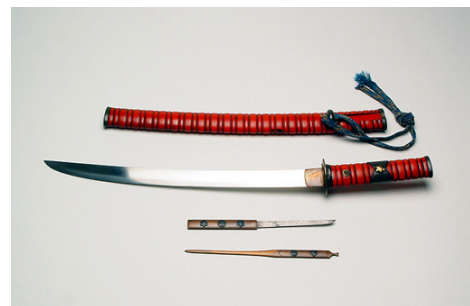
Already in May 2008 we had our first workshop or seminar (or colloquium as you natural scientists call it) with people invited from Sweden and Denmark. The group that assembled was a heterogenous mix of people specializing in the subject of Japan from different angles. Except very interesting discussions, a few objects were on display to reflect upon.

In the long process ending in the opening of the permanent exhibition, one very important step is to preliminary chose the objects to be shown. This is what we are concentrating on during autumn 2008 and winter 2009. Myself, I work with choosing every kind of object except the wood-block prints, a field which is taken by Dr Ewa Machotka. To our help, we have the database of the museum, but unfortunately not all objects are there or sometimes the information is very scarce. A lot of preliminary research has to be done now and next year in order to start the deeper research.

Another important step which is connected to choosing the objects is the ongoing discussion on how to present the mostly foreign culture of Japan to the public.

In our project group intense discussions about the exhibition take place quite often. We think that it would probably make sense to show objects in a timeline (chronology). At the same time, we have also been talking about to show certain themes or topics to deepen the focus on for example tea ceremony (*chanoyu*), the samurai, the “court culture”, the folklore, symbols and mythology of Japan, the middle-class (*chonin*) etc. The focus in the themes will be on Edo period (1600 or

1603-1868) because of the nature of our collections – it is dominated by Edo period objects. One special theme will probably be on “East and West”, primarily the contacts between Japan and the West, especially Sweden. In this part it will be natural to show for example export goods such as Imari porcelain and lacquer made to order from the West (*namban* lacquer). Especially interesting are the few objects that show the very early connections between Sweden and Japan, such as a shield said to be ordered by Swedish Fredrik Coyet (1615-1687). Fredrik Coyet was living in Nagasaki in 1647-48 and 1651-52 because of his work in The Dutch East India Company as “supreme headman”, (Dutch: “opperhoofd”). Later he was governor of Taiwan/Formosa. The shield of Coyet is lacquered in black and gold (*maki-e*). Over one hundred years later, in 1775-76, Carl Peter Thunberg, a disciple of Carolus Linnaeus, went to Japan. The museum has a unique tea caddy in porcelain which he ordered for his Japanese friends. How it came to Sweden is not known yet, but it was donated to the museum by H.M. King Gustav VI Adolf.



Short sword (*wakizashi*) with lacquered  
sheath. (OM-1979-0058).  
Early Edo period. (1600-1868).

The work on the permanent exhibition of Japanese objects proceeds and early next year the next workshop/seminar/colloquium is planned with researchers on Japan. The general public will finally have a place in Stockholm to see several hundreds of objects from Japan in the autumn of 2010. Also, a catalogue is planned to accompany the exhibition. Many events and programs will also take place in connection to the opening of the new permanent exhibition of Japanese objects. (*Curator, The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities*)

## Promenade (2)

### Nara Yagyu-road Hiking by Hiroshi Sano

“Temple, temple, temple! I am tired of visiting temples. We cannot live in a temple” said a colleague from Germany.

One of the commonest welcome to Japan for foreign visitors is to guide them to old temples, some of which were founded more than 1000 years ago. Unless you have a background knowledge in history, architecture and religion, continuous temple-visiting may be rather boring.

\*

The ancient capital Nara was founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, Buddhism just entered Japan and a great number of temples were constructed. Tourists coming to Nara are often strongly suggested to make a pilgrimage to famous temples by one-day bus tour.

In addition to its abundant historical monuments, Nara has a rich nature. As Kyoto, Nara is located in a basin surrounded by hills covered with vegetation. In particular, the forest in the eastern region called *Kasuga-yama* has been conserved for over 1000 years as the holy mountain of the *Kasuga* shrine.

Even today, a special permission is necessary to enter this area, where the diversity in plants and insects is well maintained. For example, an uncommon tree, *nagi* (*Podocarpus nagi*), forms stable colonies, and a rare hairstreak butterfly, *Loomis-lycaenid* (*Panchala ganesa loomisi*), has been assigned as a natural asset. In this article, I will introduce an easy accessible hiking course running along the southern foot of the *Kasuga-yama*, allowing the hiker to catch a glimpse of the virgin forest of the region.

\*

Nara is a small city, and you can easily find the *Kasuga jinja* (shrine) with its tall, red gate. Follow the way through the shrine, and walk further towards the *Shin-yakushiji* temple. Take the paved street through the residential area for a while, and you will find a signpost,

indicating “*Yagyu-kaido*” (*Yagyu-road*). Follow a narrow way along a small stream, *Noto-gawa*, in a forest of ever-green oaks.

The *Yagyu-road* was developed in the 10th century to connect Nara and the eastern villages including *Yagyu* for travelers and for itinerant priests. It has practically been used until 1960. For its importance, the way was partially paved with stones, a fact that is rather rare in Japan. The pass is bordered with many stone statues; most of them were carved during the 12th century.

The course goes straight up to the junction with the *Kasuga-yama* highway. Cross over this street, and you will soon arrive at the *Ishikiri-Touge* (pass), where you will find an old-fashioned tea room (*Cha-ya*). The house is said to have been built 300 years ago. There, you can enjoy a cup of tea with a small home-made rice-flour dumpling mixed with mugwort (*Kusa-mochi* with *Artemisia indica*). Depending on your schedule, you can continue hiking to the *Ensho-ji* temple, or come back to Nara taking different ways such as the *Jigoku-tani* course. The whole course takes approximately 3-4 hours. (Director, JSPS Stockholm Office)



## Festival (2)

### Oshogatsu by Lisa-Mi Swartz

お正月

In Japan New Year's is, by far, the most important and elaborate holiday, comparable to the Christmas holidays in Europe and North America. The holiday starts around December 30 and ends around January 3 and is called *oshogatsu*. During this time business and schools close for one to two weeks. It is also one of the busiest travel holidays with people returning to their families or going on vacation. In recent years, the significance of New Year's has been somewhat lost and now a day many people spend the holiday in resort areas or travelling abroad. Still, a great number of people spend the holiday at home with family to celebrate the beginning of the new year.

Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year providing a fresh start, consequently, all duties are supposed to be completed by the end of the year. *Bonenkai parties* (year forgetting parties) are therefore usually held in the end of the year with the purpose of leaving the old year's worries and troubles behind.



The preparations for *oshogatsu* start with a thorough spring cleaning. This is done near the end of the year because it is believed that it is the time to purify everything so that one can make a fresh start for the coming twelve months. A great deal of time is spent cleaning houses, shops and offices. The New Year's celebration in Japan centers around the belief that at the end of the year *Toshigami* (god of the incoming year) visits every house, bringing blessings to them. Traditionally, this cleaning was done on December 13 as a rite to prepare to welcome *Toshigami*. When the cleaning is done it is time to put up the New Year's decorations. They are usually made up of pine tree branches and bamboo, and are decorating the gates of the houses.

Food, of course, is also a big part of Japanese New Year's celebrations. *Osechi-ryori* are special dishes eaten on the first three days of the New Year. The dishes are designed to be pleasant to look at, and keep for days so that the women are free from having to cook for three days. There are some



regional differences but the *osechi* dishes are basically the same nationwide, with each of the food types representing a wish for the future. Some other traditional dishes

are *ozoni*, a soup with *mochi* (sticky rice cake), and no New Year's Eve is complete without the *toshikoshi soba* (year-bridging noodle). Even though there are some theories as to how this custom of having noodles began, a popular notion is that long noodles made from the highly elastic soba dough will lengthen and extend one's life and luck.

It is a tradition to visit a shrine or temple during *oshogatsu* to pray for health and happiness. This first visit of the year is called *hatsumode*. Although kimonos are not worn in daily life any more, many people wear them for *hatsumode*. The most popular temples and shrines, such as Tokyo's Meiji Shrine, attract several million people during the three days. Most impressive are such visits at the actual turn of the year, when large temple bells are rung at midnight. It starts ringing at just before midnight on New Year's Eve and continues into the early hours of New Year's Day, 108 times in all. According to Buddhism, a human being has 108 troublesome desires. The ringing of the bells is to expel these troublesome desires.

At New Year it is common to buy different kind of good luck charms at the temples or shrines. *Hamaya* is a decorative arrow to ward off misfortune and to attract good luck.



For New Year's resolutions it is popular to use *daruma* dolls. Using black ink, one fills in a single circular eye while thinking of a wish. Should the wish later come true, the second eye is filled in. Traditionally one fills in the right eye first; the left eye is left blank until the wish is fulfilled.

At the end of the year, people return used hamayas and darumas to the temple for a special burning and buy new

ones.

There are also a few games traditionally played by children on New Year, however, their popularity has decreased in recent times. *Hanetsuki* (Japanese badminton), *takoage* (kite flying), and *karuta* (a card game) are some of them. The custom of giving children *otoshidama* from parents and relatives are however, still as popular as ever.

In most cases, it is money placed in special little envelopes. Another popular custom, to both send and receive, is the New Year's cards for friends and colleagues, which are specially marked to be delivered on January 1. If you have a Japanese friend, you are almost sure to receive one declaring; *Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu*. (Assistant, JSPS Stockholm Office)

## *East Meets West on a Plate (1)*

### *Tofu Tuna Patties* by Elisabeth Sano

The Japanese make extensive use of soybeans in their cuisine. The beans are associated with good health and longevity. They are called “the meat in the field” and are valued as high quality protein food. A hundred grams of soybeans contain 35 grams of protein. They contain lecithin and saponin, which reduce blood cholesterol. Their uptake plays an important role in making healthy bones.

In Japan, soybeans are processed in various ways such as *shoyu* (soysauce), *miso* (fermented soybean paste),

*to-nyu* (soybean milk), *tofu* (soybean curd) and so on. Bean curd is nutritious and economical. It has a higher protein value than the soybean in its raw state.

A cookbook called “*Tofu Hyakuchin*” (A Hundred Features of Tofu) was published in 1782 during the Edo-period (1600-1868). It offers a hundred methods of cooking tofu. The plain taste of bean curd makes it a versatile ingredient to be adapted to many cuisines. In this article, I will introduce several easy to prepare bean curd recipes.

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#### **Tofu-Tuna Patties**

Ingredients (photograph 1)

One tofu about 500 g

One canned tuna fish drained

3 green onions

2 tablespoons flour, salt and pepper to taste, flour for coating

Methods:

- (1) Drain the tofu for several hours or overnight in the refrigerator.
- (2) Mash the drained tofu and tuna fish with a fork. Add the chopped green onions, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.
- (3) Form small balls, flatten the top, coat with flour and fry on both sides in a little oil until brown (photograph 2).

Serve hot with soysauce or with your favorite sauce (photograph 3).



photograph 1



photograph 2



photograph 3



## II. News & Announcements

### *New Grant for Sweden-Japan Bilateral Joint Projects*

On 11<sup>th</sup> of December, VINNOVA and JSPS agreed to set up a new grant to carry out bilateral cooperative research projects in natural science between Sweden and Japan. Dr. Per Eriksson, Director General of VINNOVA, and Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President of JSPS signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation between the both organizations.



*Dr. Per Eriksson, VINNOVA and Prof. Motoyuki Ono, JSPS*

The purpose of this Bilateral Joint Project is to further advance existing cooperation while establishing a concrete partnership between the two countries by

supporting team-to-team collaboration. Joint research project are to be carried out by research teams comprised of scientists from Sweden and Japan.

The duration of each project will be two years. For each project, VINNOVA will provide annual funding of up to SEK 150,000 to the Swedish team, and JSPS will provide annual funding up to JPY 2,500,000 to the Japanese team. This funding will cover the following expenses in connection with a project; international travel expenses between Sweden and Japan, daily allowance, accommodations, and domestic travel in the receiving country and the participants own country, plus a portion of the research costs (Consumables and other minor research expenses)

Deadline for submitting applications will be September 2009, and successful candidates will start their project from April to December of 2010. Regarding concrete application/selection schedule and information will be announced by VINNOVA and JSPS via HP in later. (*Rumiko Mouri, Deputy Director, JSPS Stockholm Office*)

## *Fellowship Information*

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

Two ways of applications are available. The main route (A) is to prepare application forms through your host researcher at the host-university or institution in Japan. The host will send all documents to the JSPS Tokyo Office. This route is open for researchers in almost all countries outside of Japan. As for the deadline of each application, please find the table as below.

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

For example, if you are a Swedish researcher, you can apply through the nomination system of the following programs, depending on your career and research field: Post-doctoral fellowship (Long-term and Short-term. Application deadline is April 1 2009) or Invitation fellowship (Short-term. Application deadline is announced by VINNOVA).

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

Program	Duration	Application Dead line(※1)	Commencement of fellowships (※2)
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs  <a href="http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html#long">http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html#long</a>  <i>For Young post-doctor etc.</i>	(Standard) 12 to 24 months	<1 <sup>st</sup> Call> 2008.September1-5	2009.April1 ~ 2009.September30
		<2nd Call> 2009.May1-12	2009. September 1 ~ 2009. November30
	(Short-term) 1 to 12 months	<4 <sup>th</sup> Call> 2009.April 6-10	2009.August1 ~ 2010.March 31
		<5 <sup>th</sup> Call> 2009.May 1-12	2009.September 1 ~ 2010.March 31
		<6 <sup>th</sup> Call> 2009.August 3-7	2009.December1 ~ 2010.March 31
Invitation Fellowship Programs for research in Japan <a href="http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/main.htm">http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/main.htm</a>  <i>For Professor or mid-career Researchers etc.</i>	(Long-term) 61 days to 10 montshs	2008.September1-5	2009.April1 ~ 2010.March31
	(Short-term) 14 to 60 days	<1 <sup>st</sup> Call> 2008.September1-5	2009.April1 ~ 2010.March 31
		<2 <sup>nd</sup> Call> 2009.May1-12	2009.October1 ~ 2010.March31

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

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

## *Colloquium March 10-11, 2009*

### **KVA/IRF/JSPS Space Colloquium “Sun and Earth Connections”**

**10th-11th March 2009, Royal Swedish Academy of Science (KVA),  
Lilla Frescativägen 4A, Stockholm**

#### **Provisional Program**

**09.20 – 09.35 Opening remarks**

• • • • • Prof. G. Öquist (KVA), Prof. H.Sano (JSPS), Prof. A. Karlsson (ITPS)

#### **Session 1:**

**09.35 – 09.45 Chair Prof. R.Lundin (IRF)**

**09.45 – 10.30 Talk 1 The sun as the driver of heliospheric activities –New views from Hinode results-  
• • • • • Prof. K. Ichimoto (Kyoto University)**

**10.30 – 10.45 COFFEE**

**10.45 – 11.30 Talk 2 The plasma environment of giant planets (relations to exoplanets)  
• • • • • Prof.J.E. Wahlund (Uppsala University)**

**11.30 – 12.15 Talk 3 Solar wind interaction with the inner, Earth-like, planets • • • • Prof.S. Barabash (IRF)**

**12.15 – 13.00 LUNCH**

#### **Session 2:**

**13.00 – 13.10 Chair Dr M. Yamauchi (IRF)**

**13.10 – 13.55 Talk 4 Auroral processes in the solar system • • • • • Prof.G. Marklund (KTH)**

**13.55 – 14.40 Talk 5 Explosive events in space (CMEs, storms, substorms)  
• • • • • Prof.K. Shiokawa (Nagoya**

**University)**

**14.40 – 15.00 COFFEE**

**15.00 – 15.45 Talk 6 Cross-scale coupling in space plasmas • • • • • Prof. I. Sandahl (IRF)**

**15.45 – 15.55 introduction to SSC/Esrang space facilities • • • • • Dr. O. Norberg (SSC)**

**15.55 – 16.05 introduction to next generation EISCAT 3D • • • • • Dr. E. Turunen (EISCAT)**

**16.05 – 16.20 Poster preview: (One viewgraph from each poster) • • • • • Dr.M. Yamauchi (IRF)**

**16.20 – 17.30 Postersession**

**17.30 – Mingling buffé**

#### **Wednesday 11 March 2009**

#### **Session 3:**

**09.20 – 09.30 Chair Prof.I. Sandahl (IRF)**

**09.30 – 10.00 Talk 7 Japanese plans for Solar System Explorations • • • • • Prof. M. Nakamura (JAXA)**

**10.00 – 10.30 Talk 8 MHD simulations for solar wind planetary interactions • • • • Dr.K.Fukazawa (NICT)**

**10.30 – 10.45 COFFEE**

#### **Session 4:**

**10.45 – 11.15 Talk 9 Plasma-surface interaction (Moon, Mercury, small bodies) • • • • Dr.Y. Futaana (IRF)**

**11.15 – 11.45 Talk 10 Laboratory plasma of relevance to space • • • • • Prof.N. Brenning (KTH)**

**11.45 – 12.30 Plenary - outlook, collaboration; present and future plans  
• • • • • Prof.S. Watanabe (Hokkaido University) and Prof.R. Lundin (IRF)**

**12.30 – 13.30 LUNCH**

**13.30 – 15.00 Excursion OBSERVATORIEMUSEET, Drottninggatan 120, Stockholm**

**To register, e-mail (info@jsps-sto.com) or fax (+46-(0)8-31 38 86) to  
JSPS Stockholm Office by 27th February, 2009**

**\*Registration is free of charge    \*This Colloquium is open to all.**

**Contact to:**

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Retzius väg 3, SE-171 77, Stockholm, Sweden Fax: +46-(0)8-31 38 86  
E-mail: info@jsps-sto.com URL: <http://www.jsps-sto.com>**

## *Sweden Alumni Club Board Members*



The vice-chair of Sweden Alumni Club, Carlos Rubio, has resigned. Carlos Rubio served as vice-chair since the start of SAC. He has been an active board member and has contributed with many interesting ideas and input. Even though Carlos Rubio will be missed on the board, his need for time for his many other missions, is of course understandable.



As new vice-chair we welcome Professor Magnus Larsson. Magnus Larsson is also a long term board member and can be found at the department of Water Resources Engineering at Lund University.



We also want to welcome Göran Thor as new member of the board. Göran Thor is professor at the department of Ecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He has lived in Japan for almost three years supported by a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and another JSPS grant. Göran Thor has been an active SAC member, and will be an appreciated member of the board.

*(Lisa-Mi Swartz, Assistant, JSPS Stockholm Office)*

### **Editorial note**

“Japan the Horned Islands”, is as always grateful for the interesting and proficient contributions of articles. Contributions of articles and news are most welcome. Please contact JSPS Stockholm Office for information about publishing and deadline dates. (L-M S)



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