

# JSPS Stockholm Newsletter

English Edition Vol. 22



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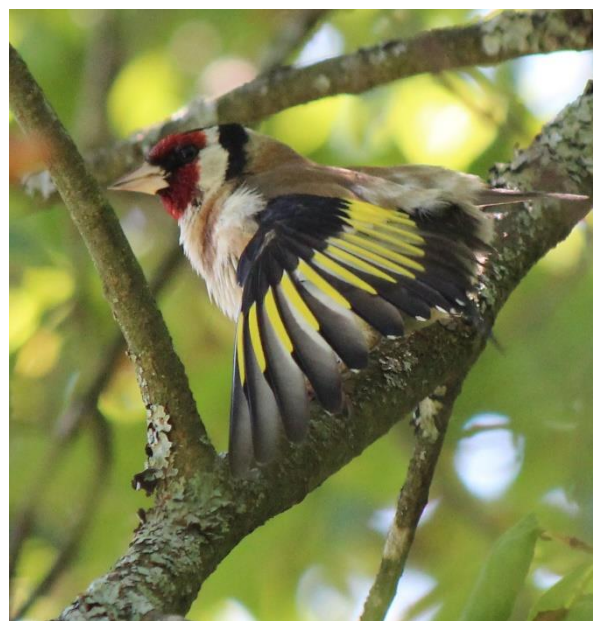
## Globalization and Migration

By Director Hideo Akutsu, JSPS Stockholm Office

From spring to summer, we come across Arctic terns on a stroll along a seaside in the Stockholm suburb. They have swallow-like tail feathers and fly gracefully yet ready for sudden diving for fishing in the water. They do not care people passing by when they rest their wings on the bank. They look like local birds fitting into the beautiful scenery of the town. In reality, Arctic terns are strangers migrated from the Antarctic all the way to Sweden. The name of the bird is misleading. They travel back and forth the Antarctic and Arctic zones in a year, flying almost 32,000 km. Arctic tern is one of the birds migrating the longest distance on the planet. It is a real global migrator. Although it is a hard life from our point of view, they should have a good reason to choose such a life style for their quality of life. On the other hand, there are also the birds such as magpie and goldfinch, which prefer to stay in the long and dark Swedish winter. Each bird takes its own life style to enjoy better quality of life in its way.

In the dawn of the mankind history, hunting and gathering were the major work for living and people also migrated around searching for their target items. Development of agriculture increased settlers and migrators represented by nomads became a minor group. However, expansion of civilization generated other kinds of migration. Northern expansion of the Roman Empire originated from the Mediterranean civilization induced the great ethnic migration initiated by Germanic tribes. "Discovery of the new continent" by Christopher Columbus led to Europeanization of North and South American continents through migration of huge number of European people. Furthermore, The Third Empire of Nazi Germany forced Jews to migrate to the United States of America or Palestine, leading to the establishment of their own country Israel. Each immigration was attempted for a better quality of life. In particular, immigration of many outstanding Jewish scientists to the United States pushed its scientific status to the top of the world. After the World War II, the United States have been keeping its scientific kingdom at the top through collecting excellent students and researchers around the world. Now, scientists have to migrate globally for studying, getting a job or attending an international conference in a foreign country.

Along with the globalization of economy, global competition of universities also becomes a hot issue. Following the United States, other advanced nations have started to solicit excellent foreign students and researchers to their universities. The advantage of the globalization is not only to get more excellent researchers, but also to generate unexpected new ideas through the communication among the people with different cultures and civilizations. The latter is not yet well recognized by Japanese universities, because it is hard for Japanese to have such experiences in an island nation. Nordic countries are also making efforts focusing on invitation of



internationally high-ranking scientists, which is the most efficient way to push up their scientific levels. The Swedish government invested SEK250,000,000 for "International Recruitment of Top Researchers" from 2013 to 2016. The rector of the Helsinki University, Prof. Jukka Kola, announced in his anniversary remark this year that one of the most important missions of the university was to recruit, recruit and recruit excellent students and researchers across the world.

Globalization in Swedish universities looks successful in graduate students, senior researchers and faculty members. Many programs in graduate school levels are taught in English. There are also programs focusing on global issues. For example, the Karolinska Institutet offers six courses in "Global Master's Programs" for foreign students from mainly emerging countries. The globalization of Swedish universities are partly associated with the immigration policy of the government. The immigrant community provides students and teaching staffs to universities. Especially in refugees, there are a certain number of highly-educated youth and intelligent people. Even newly appointed foreign staffs may feel at home in this kind of multicultural society and may be able to stay longer. Japanese universities are now trying to globalize their teaching programs, students, and teaching-researching staffs. However, successful globalization can be achieved only when the foreigners joining the university and their families feel at home not only in the university but also in the local community. Upbuilding of such a community is still a challenging issue for Japan. There is a good reason for migratory birds to form a group for the journey to a destination under a different environment.

## The 2015 Nobel Laureates and Nobel Week

In the memory of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Prize is awarded to discoveries and inventions of greatest benefit on mankind. Earlier in October, the 2015 Nobel Prize Laureates were announced, and two of the laureates were Japanese scientists. The Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded with one half jointly to Prof. Emeritus William C. Campbell and Prof. Emeritus Satoshi Ōmura, Kitasato University, "for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites", and the other half to Chief Prof. Youyou Tu, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, "for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria". The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded jointly to Prof. Takaaki Kajita, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Emeritus Arthur B. McDonald, Queen's University, "for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass".

### **The Nobel Week**

#### **December 7 – Nobel Lectures in Medicine and Reception at Karolinska Institutet**

The Medicine Laureates Prof. Emeritus Satoshi Ōmura, Prof. Emeritus William C. Campbell and Chief Prof. Youyou Tu, gave lectures on their research in the full Aula Medica, Karolinska Institutet.

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



*Nobel Laureates Prof. Emeritus William C. Campbell and Prof. Emeritus Satoshi Ōmura being photographed at a reception.*

#### **December 8 – Nobel Lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Economics, Reception and Nobel Prize Concert**

The Nobel Lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Economics were held at Aula Magna, Stockholm University. Physics Laureates Prof. Takaaki Kajita and Prof. Emeritus Arthur McDonald explained their discoveries of the neutrinos. Attending the lectures were young school children, students, researchers and others interested in science and the Nobel Prize.

Around lunch time, the Embassy of Japan organized a reception to congratulate the two Japanese Laureates. H.E. Ambassador Jun Yamazaki praised the two Laureates' achievements, and how the scientific and academic exchanges between Sweden and Japan has deepened. Following the reception, a press conference for Japanese media was held.

In the evening, the Nobel Prize Concert was held at the Stockholm Concert Hall, and this time Austrian Franz Welser-Möst conducted the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra.



*Prof. Takaaki Kajita and Prof. Emeritus Ōmura heartily laughing at a press conference.*

#### **December 9 – The Nobel Week Dialogue in Gothenburg**

The Nobel Week Dialogue, a symposium open to the general public, was held at the Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre in Gothenburg. The theme of the dialogue was "The Future of Intelligence" with Nobel Laureates, world-leading scientists, experts and politicians discussing topics such as artificial intelligence.

In Stockholm, a reception organized by the Nobel Foundation and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) was held at Nordiska Museet in honor of the Nobel Laureates.

#### **December 10 – The Nobel Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet**

Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of JSPS, and his spouse were invited to the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony, held at the Stockholm Concert Hall. The Nobel Laureates in Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature and Economic Sciences received their diplomas and medals from the hands of H.M the King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. The exclusive and festive Nobel Banquet held at Stockholm City Hall was followed, President Anzai and spouse were among the special invited guests.



### KIFEE Symposium Held in Trondheim, Norway

From September 20-23, the Kyoto International Forum for Environmental Energy (KIFEE) Symposium was held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Director Hideo Akutsu presented the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office and JSPS Programs. About 140 participated in the symposium, of whom approximately 40 participants were from Japan.

Talks were given by Norwegian and Japanese researchers, students, and officials from funding agencies, and a lively question and answer session was performed after each lecture.

Inspired by the Kyoto Protocol, the symposium was created by the universities in the Kyoto region working towards the development of a sustainable society, and it acts as an international arena for the strategic cooperation between universities.

The Bilateral Agreement on Technological Cooperation between Japan and Norway was signed in May 2004, and a long-term research cooperation that could serve as a basis for industrial cooperation was desired. Due to the good relations between NTNU and the universities in the Kyoto region, NTNU was invited to participate in the symposium.

The symposium was held for the first time in Kyoto, and has since then been consecutively held in Kyoto and Trondheim.



*Participants listening intently.*



*Director Hideo Akutsu introducing JSPS.*

### The 2015 Marcus Wallenberg Prize



*Prof. Akira Isogai speaking at the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Award Ceremony.*

Photo: Kyodo News

<https://english.kyodonews.jp/photos/2015/10/377201.html>

On September 28, Prof. Akira Isogai, the University of Tokyo, Assoc. Prof. Tsuguyuki Saito, the University of Tokyo and Dr. Yoshiharu Nishiyama, CERMAV-CNRS, were awarded the 2015 Marcus Wallenberg Prize for their development of an energy-efficient method to produce nanofibrillated cellulose. The Laureates received the prize from the hands of His Majesty the King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a ceremony in Stockholm. Prof. Isogai spoke at the ceremony, while the other two laureates Dr. Nishiyama and Assoc. Prof. Saito spoke on September 29 at the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Symposium. Dr. Nishiyama gave the lecture titled “The Cellulose Microfibril: A Universal Building Block of Plant Biomass”, and Assoc. Prof. Saito’s gave the lecture titled “TEMPO-mediated Oxidation as a Tool for producing Nanofibrillated Cellulose”.

The prize is awarded by the Marcus Wallenberg Foundation for Promoting Scientific Research in the Forest Industry. The purpose of the prize is to recognize and encourage groundbreaking scientific achievements within the fields important to the forest and forest industries. The prize was instituted 1980 by the Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB (now Stora Enso) to commemorate Swedish industrialist Dr. Marcus Wallenberg, who served long-term as member and chairman of the Board of Directors.

## EIJS Stockholm Seminar on Japan and International Conference with Prof. Izumi Ohno



*Prof. Izumi Ohno speaking at an international conference.*

On September 30, the European Institute for Japanese Studies (EIJS) at Stockholm School of Economics, Embassy of Japan in Sweden, Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Stockholm University, Swedish Defence University and JSPS Stockholm Office co-organized a Stockholm Seminar on Japan titled "Development Cooperation in a Post-MDG Era: Can

Japan effectively continue to contribute to global development?"

Opening remarks were given by Prof. Marie Söderberg, Director of EIJS, followed by the lecture titled "Japanese Development Cooperation in the Post-MDG Era" by Prof. Izumi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). About 50 participants attended the seminar, and participated in the lively discussions.

On October 1-2, Prof. Ohno participated in the international conference "Japanese and Nordic Development Cooperation in a Post-MDG era", and it was jointly organized by EIJS, Osaka University, and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Prof. Söderberg gave opening remarks, and the lecture by Prof. Ohno was titled "Japanese Development Cooperation in a New Era: Recommendations for Network-based Cooperation".

Please read Prof. Ohno's report on page 8.

## KVA-JSPS Seminar Held with Prof. Hiroshi Imahori

Since 2009, JSPS Stockholm Office has together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA), organized seminars with Japanese lecturers. The 2nd seminar of the FY2015 series was held on October 12th at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, on the 14th at Uppsala University, on the 16th at Chalmers University of Technology, and on the 19th at Lund University. The invited speaker was Prof. Hiroshi Imahori, Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (WPI-iCeMS), Kyoto University.

Prof. Imahori gave a lecture titled "Molecular Engineering for Photoinduced Charge Separation and Its Applications", focusing on his research in the solar energy field. The seminar was a success with more than 100 students and researchers attending, and lively conversations on the topic were carried out after the lectures.

Please read Prof. Imahori's report on page 9.



*Prof. Hiroshi Imahori speaking at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.*



*At Lund University.*

### IVA-JSPS Seminar on “the Future of Forestry” Held with Prof. Hiroyuki Yano and Dr. Masayoshi Watanabe

On November 3, the first seminar of the IVA-JSPS seminar series FY2015 was held on "The future forest industry - What could Sweden learn from Japan?" at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA). The purpose of the IVA-JSPS seminar series is to invite Japanese researchers with excellent research achievements, and Swedish experts, to promote the scientific exchange between the two countries. The seminar was organized by IVA, the Sweden-Japan Foundation, the Embassy of Japan, and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Dr. Johan Weigelt, Secretary to the Academy and Executive Vice President, offered welcome remarks. The seminar was moderated by Prof. Mikael Lindström, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, who mentioned the theme of the seminar and the importance of forest industry to bio-economy. Prof. Lindström continued to introduce the invited speakers from Japan: Prof. Hiroyuki Yano, Research Institute for Sustainable

Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, and Dr. Masayoshi Watanabe, Ministry of International Trade and Industry. First, Prof. Yano gave the lecture titled “The future direction of bio-based materials inspired by nano- to micro-structures in plants”. Next, Dr. Watanabe gave the lecture titled “Strategy to create advanced biomass industry”.

After the lectures, a panel discussion was held with commentaries from the academic, industry and political perspectives. Representing each perspective were Prof. Lars Berglund, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Dr. Tom Lindström, Innventia, and State Secretary Elisabeth Backteman, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

The seminar is available for viewing online at:  
<http://www.iva.se/event/the-future-forest-industry--what-could-sweden-learn-from-japan/>

### The 3rd Joint International Workshop Between Tohoku University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology



On November 12-13, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop between Tohoku University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology was held at KTH, Stockholm. The theme of the workshop was “Flow Dynamics and Spintronics”, and it was organized by KTH, Tohoku University, and JSPS Stockholm Office. The purpose of the workshop was to further strengthen the collaboration and academic exchange, and to discuss new visions and recent advancements within the field.

The first day of the workshop focused on Flow Dynamics, while the second day focused on Spintronics. Lectures were given by a total of 21 researchers, 11 from Tohoku University, and 10 from the Swedish universities KTH, Gothenburg University and Uppsala University.

### Farewell Ceremony Held for H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto

October 14, 2015, a farewell ceremony was held at the Ambassador’s Residence for H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto, Embassy of Japan in Sweden. Participating in the reception were representatives from the Swedish government, academia, culture, industry etc., showing great appreciation for the Ambassador and his diplomatic activities in Sweden. From JSPS Stockholm Office, Director Hideo Akutsu and Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo attended. H.E. Ambassador Morimoto gave a speech mentioning the upcoming 150-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Sweden in 2018, expressing hope for further strengthened international exchange and a deepened relationship between the two countries. JSPS Stockholm Office would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Morimoto for his kind collaboration with JSPS and diplomatic service in Sweden.



Photo: The Embassy of Japan  
[http://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/nihongo/activity\\_151014.html](http://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/nihongo/activity_151014.html) (Japanese)



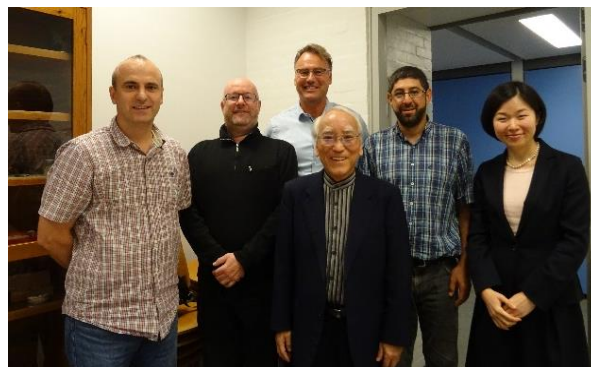
### JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark Held the 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

On September 11, the first board meeting of the soon to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark was held at Technical University of Denmark (DTU).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the necessary preparations for the establishment of the Club and plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, scheduled to be held on February 12, 2016. The General Assembly will be held prior to a joint event with the Embassy of Japan, Tokai University European Center and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Other topics discussed at the board meeting included the roles of the board members, the Club's articles, how to attract more members, and a future activity plan was drafted.

The Club has now 33 members and growing. If you are a Danish former JSPS fellow, please register your membership at: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/alumnidenmark.aspx>.



*Director Hideo Akutsu and Deputy Director Yuriko Kawakubo with 4 of 6 board members.*

*From left to right: Dr. Eugen Stamate, Dr. Michael Arvedlund, Dr. Sam K. Steffensen and Dr. Maher Abou Hachem.*

### ACF General Assembly and Seminar "Academic Links Between Finland and Japan" Held in Helsinki

On October 15, the JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF) held its annual General Assembly and the Seminar "Academic Links Between Finland and Japan" at the University of Helsinki.

At the General Assembly, ACF Chair Dr. Kristiina Jokinen gave an introduction to the Club and its activities during the past fiscal year. The Club's annual activity plan was reviewed and confirmed, and one new associate member was accepted. Elections of new board members was held, and Dr. Simon Puglisi, University of Helsinki, and Dr. Ville Syrjälä, Tampere University of Technology, were recruited and welcomed to the board. Their term of office will begin from April 1, 2016.

Dr. Jokinen further informed of the ACF Activity Seminar FY2016 applications, a chance for regular members of the Club to receive financial support for organizing a seminar with one invited Japanese lecturer.

After the ACF General Assembly, the Seminar "Academic Links Between Finland and Japan" was held to provide an opportunity for Japanese and Finnish researchers to network and to maintain the academic links between the two countries. The seminar was jointly organized by ACF,

Hokkaido University, Helsinki Office, and JSPS Stockholm Office.

Presentations were given by 3 Japanese researchers in Finland who were Hokkaido University and/or JSPS Alumni. They introduced their research and business, how their grants have helped them in their career, and challenges they have faced.

From JSPS alumni, Prof. Elina Oksanen, Plant Ecophysiology, University of Eastern Finland, introduced her university and her "Forest and Environmental Research in Japan". Prof. Ryuichi Masuda, Department of Biological Sciences, Hokkaido University, participated by giving a lecture titled "Collaborations of biogeographic studies between Japan and Finland". The final presentation was given by Dr. Arja Kallio, Director, Academy of Finland, titled "European Research Council (ERC) in Horizon 2020". Dr. Kallio also informed the participants on the research funding schemes available at ERC.

The seminar was a success with 41 participants, and it was followed by a reception where the participants amiably mingled and lively exchanged views.



*Participants at the ACF General Assembly.*



*Prof. Elina Oksanen, University of Eastern Finland.*

## Seminar and Conference on “Japanese Development Cooperation in the Post-2015 Era”

Izumi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)



I visited Stockholm during September 28-October 2, 2015, at the invitation of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for two purposes: (i) to give lecture on “Japanese Development Cooperation in the Post-MDG Era” at the 60th Stockholm Seminar on Japan; and (ii) to participate in an international conference “Japanese and Nordic Perspectives of Development Cooperation in a Post-MDG Era” and make a presentation on the role of Japan in the new era of development cooperation. Both seminar/conference were co-organized by the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS) and the JSPS Stockholm Office and held at the Stockholm School of Economics. In addition, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden and the Osaka University respectively co-hosted the seminar (i) and the conference (ii).

In the lecture, I explained the evolution of Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy during the past 60 years and the new Charter for Development Cooperation recently adopted by the Japanese government, and then presented my perspective of Japan’s role in a post-MDG era, especially toward achieving ‘quality growth’ which is a high-priority issue in the new charter. In particular, I emphasized three points as follows.

First, Japan’s development cooperation should give greater attention to ‘cooperation’ and ‘competition’ with Asian emerging donors. This is partly because of their rising presence in economic cooperation, but also because of shifting interests of Western donors from poverty reduction to inclusive, sustainable growth agenda. Japan should collaborate with Asian donors to disseminate the East Asian perspective of aid and development which is based on the philosophy of self-help efforts, while focusing on its core competence to make a distinctive contribution to the realization of ‘quality growth. Second, Japan’s comparative advantages should be clearly understood as being a ‘mature donor’, a ‘knowledge partner’ and a ‘quality leader’. As a catch-up economy which achieved rapid economic development

after Meiji and WW II, Japan has accumulated rich experiences of nation building. It should share with other countries these experiences (both successes and failures), as well as frontier challenges the country currently faces (e.g., declining birthrate and ageing). Third, Japan should strengthen ‘network-based cooperation,’ working with diverse partners, such as business, local governments, NGOs, universities and also mobilizing the human and institutional networks in Asia that Japan has built through the past decades of ODA.

In the Q&A session, active discussions took place over such topics as: concept and approach to promoting ‘quality growth,’ development cooperation to middle-income countries vs. low-income countries, modality of partnership with the private sector, and social and environmental consideration of Japan’s infrastructure ODA. These are essential points and reflect the perspective of Swedish ODA which focuses on humanitarian assistance with grants (no ODA loans).

These two events were organized quite timely. Globally, the UN Summit convened at the end-September 2015 endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2013 development agenda. For Japan, the new Development Cooperation Charter was adopted by the government in February 2015 (by revising the 2003 ODA Charter). It should be also highlighted that Prof. Marie Soderberg, Director of EIJS at the Stockholm School of Economics was awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendations for 2015, in recognition of her long-standing contributions to intellectual partnership between Sweden and Japan. In fact, these events benefitted greatly from the knowledge and human networks that EIJS possess.

Furthermore, I had valuable opportunities to meet with the officials of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), NGOs, and researchers, to discuss the recent trend of Swedish ODA including its approach to partnership with the private sector.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the JSPS Stockholm Office, EIJS, and the Embassy of Japan in Sweden for giving me precious opportunities to disseminate my research and interact with Nordic researchers. Lastly, I was strongly impressed with extensive research networks on Japanese studies in Nordic countries. Thanks to Prof. Soderberg, a number of Nordic scholars specialized in Japanese ODA and diplomacy participated in the two events. I could hardly imagine the situation that Nordic and Japanese researchers discussed passionately (often, in Japanese), wide-ranging issues related to Japanese ODA—from history, public-private partnership to national security. It is important to maintain and expand such research networks on Japanese studies.



## KVA-JSPS Seminar

Hiroshi Imahori, Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (WPI-iCeMS), Kyoto University

I was invited by KVA and JSPS to give lectures in Stockholm, Uppsala, Göteborg, and Lund, Sweden on October 11-22, 2015. I would like to report on the lectureship tour with my impressions. On October 11 I flew Finnair from Kansai international airport to Stockholm international airport via Helsinki. It was cold in Sweden and the temperature of 5-10°C was the same as of December in Japan. I visited KTH on October 12-13 (host: Prof. Licheng Sun), Uppsala University on October 14-15 (host: Prof. Leif Hammerström), Chalmers University of Technology on October 16-17 (host: Prof. Bo Albinsson), and Lund University on October 18-20 (representative host: Prof. Villy Sundström), giving a lecture with a title of "Molecular Engineering for Photoinduced Charge Separation and Its Applications." Director, Dr. Hideo Akutsu, JSPS Stockholm Office, made promotion on the activities of JSPS at the universities before starting my lecture. It seemed to me this promotion was appealing to Swedish researchers who were interested in academic exchange between Sweden and Japan. I had a lot of chance to discuss with various researchers in the universities. Since I knew all the hosts very well, I felt very comfortable with my visit including a lot of discussion on collaborations relating to artificial photosynthesis and organic solar cells. The southern part of Sweden is very close to Denmark and it takes about 30 minutes from Lund to Copenhagen international airport by train. On October 21 I departed from the airport and returned to Japan on October 22, having good impressions of Sweden.

The most impressive event I experienced in Sweden was when I acted as a role of an opponent for PhD defense at KTH. The opponent is selected from leading scientists working on the related research field in foreign countries. KTH has a special lecture theater for PhD defense. It started at 10 am and at first as the opponent I had to explain the background and importance of the research as well as research achievements carried out by the candidate to audience in a popular scientific way for 20 minutes. Then, the candidate briefly presented his dissertation for 40 minutes. The candidate and I started long discussion and continued it for 40 minutes. After one-to-one fight, the other examiners also asked a lot of questions to him for 20 minutes. Finally, the chairman invited questions from the other audience. After the public PhD defense was over, the evaluation committee met to decide whether the candidate should pass the examination. Fortunately, he passed it and all the people including his colleagues, friends, and family celebrated the decision with champagne. The examiners and the candidate also had late lunch together. On the same night the candidate organized a big party to express his gratitude to people who supported him a lot and I was invited to join it. I was impressed by the transparent opponent system and unique education effect given by public PhD defense in Sweden. Although I had to prepare the presentation slides and looked into his doctoral thesis including his original publications very carefully, I really enjoyed this unforgettable event and the role as the opponent. Finally, I would like to thank all the people I met in Sweden as well as the generous support by KVA-JSPS.



*With host Prof. Licheng Sun, KTH Royal Institute of Technology*



## SAC Activity Seminar: “Japanese Ethics and Technology” at Ångström Laboratory in Uppsala University

**Takashi Majima**, Associate Professor, School of Business Administration, Senshu University

I visited at Uppsala University in early September. I felt chilly, but Swedish people were so kind, Swedish foods were so good. The above seminar was a fruitful one for me, Sweden days were impressive days for me.

The seminar's title was “Japanese Ethics and Technology”. Electronic technology, medical technology, machine technology, information technology, and biotechnology... Any technologies have two-facedness: a positive side and a negative side. Recently, we felt that we faced many negative sides in Japan (e.g. the Accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station). In our seminar, we discussed the manner of relationship between the technologies and us (philosophers and scientists) from the point of view of Japanese philosophy and Ethics. We had 14 presentations and panel discussion, and developed a lively discussion with many audiences.

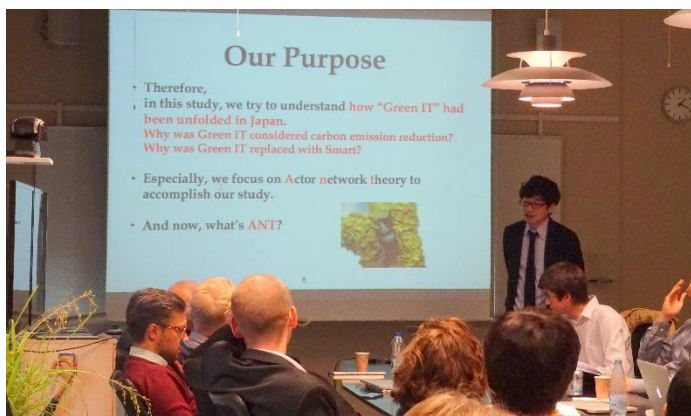
My presentation title was “From Green to Smart: The impact of Fukushima on Green IT in Japan”. I have belonged to school of business administration and have been interested in corporate organizations, because my presentation was not philosophical.

But I discussed the social construct/generative process of meanings and practices of “Green IT” from the standpoint of Actor network theory, which is a theory of origin of anthropology. Any concepts are interpreted by us in each region's context, thereby our practices are different. I discussed the indigenous practices of Green IT in Japanese context. Therefore we discussed that the meaning and practice of technology is embedded in the situation/context where is constructed by complex actor's network. And, I think that we (philosophers and scientists) must be a mediation that takes part in the context and lead our practices of the technology to the good direction for our society.

I had an exciting time by our discussion. In particular, I felt exciting, when I had an opportunity of dialogue that I rarely meet other countries' researchers and different fields' researchers. I got many fresh, surprising impressions from the other participant researchers. I found a new aspect/approach for my interest. I experienced the importance of “dialogue with different heterogeneous others”, which narrative theory says the importance of it.

I met the interesting of Japanese philosophy at Sweden.

At last, I wish to express my appreciation for JSPS, JSPS office in Stockholm, SAC, and Uppsala University.



*Dr. Takashi Majima explaining the purpose of the “Green IT” study.*



*With seminar participants.*

## September

**3**  
**Visit by Prof. Imre Pázsit, Chair of SAC 10-year Anniversary Working Group**  
 Prof. Imre Pázsit, Chalmers University of Technology, Chair of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) 10-year Anniversary Working Group, visited to exchange ideas on planning the 10-year Anniversary Symposium, to be held on January 15, 2016.



**8**  
**Meeting at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)**

Director Hideo Akutsu, Deputy Director Yuri Kowakubo, and International Program Associate Ryoko Hirose, met with Dr. Johan Weigelt, Secretary to the Academy, IVA, Dr. Maria Dollhopf, International Coordinator, IVA, Mr. Edvard Fleetwood, Secretary General, Sweden-Japan Foundation, and Mr. Masafumi Sato, First Secretary, the Embassy of Japan. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the final details on the IVA-JSPS seminar held later in November. Speakers and schedule for the 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar planned to be held in March 2016 was also discussed.

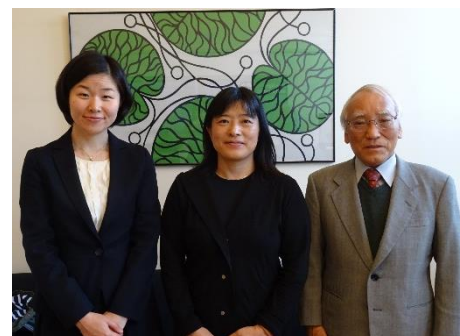
**14**  
**Visit by Mr. Mattias Jennerholm and Ms. Marija Milivijevic, Division of Research Policy, Sweden's Ministry of Education and Research**

Mr. Mattias Jennerholm and Ms. Marija Milivijevic, Division of Research Policy, Sweden's Ministry of Education and Research, visited JSPS Stockholm Office to exchange views the collaboration between Japan and Sweden. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo explained the internationalization of Japanese universities and gave their view on the collaboration between the two countries and the work of JSPS.

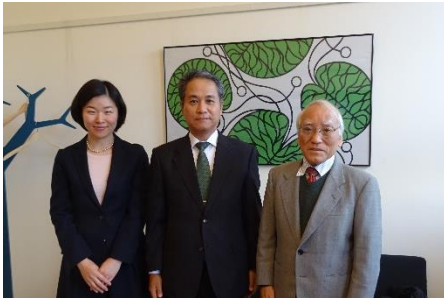


**23**  
**Meeting at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)**  
 Director Akutsu and International Program Associate Michiko Murakami met with Dr. Svein Grandum, Councillor Science, Technology and Higher Education, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan, Dr. Julie Christiansen, Senior Adviser, Research Council in Norway, and Dr. Unni Kvernhusvik Sagberg, Adviser, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU), at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).  
 Topics discussed at the meeting were collaboration on future events and how to form a researcher exchange network.

**24**  
**Visit by Prof. Manami Inoue, the University of Tokyo**  
 Prof. Manami Inoue, the University of Tokyo, visited JSPS Stockholm Office and introduced her field of research and discussed with Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo the difference between Japanese and Swedish research environments, and the current status of students exchange. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo explained the JSPS invitation fellowship programs and the inter-university exchange situation.







25

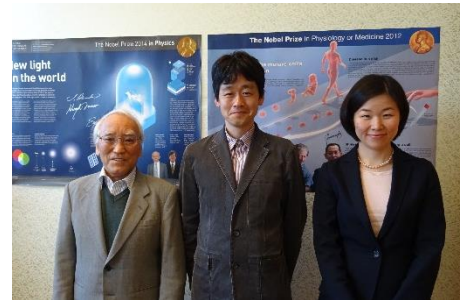
## Visit by Prof. Shigehiko Suzuki, Shizuoka University

Prof. Shigehiko Suzuki, Shizuoka University, was visiting Sweden for the purpose of attending the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Award Ceremony and Symposium. Prof. Suzuki visited JSPS Stockholm Office and explained his university's initiatives for research expenses and the steps towards globalization, followed by an explanation of the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office by Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo.

25

## Visit by Assoc. Prof. Yuji Shibasaki, Iwate University

Assoc. Prof. Yuji Shibasaki, Iwate University, visited JSPS Stockholm Office and explained to Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo the agreement with Linneaus University and online lessons. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo then explained the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office and JSPS Programs.



28

## Visit by Prof. Izumi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Prof. Izumi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), was in Sweden for participating in the EIJIS Stockholm Seminar on Japan and an international conference. Prof. Ohno visited JSPS Stockholm Office to explain her research field, and to discuss the seminar. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo introduced JSPS Stockholm Office and JSPS programs. Views were exchanged on international exchange and the support of developing countries.

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## Visit by Dr. Masayoshi Watanabe, Ministry of International Trade and Industry

Dr. Masayoshi Watanabe, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, was visiting Sweden for participating in the Marcus Wallenberg Prize Symposium.

Dr. Watanabe visited JSPS Stockholm Office and explained the current situation of Cellulose Nanofiber research. Later, Dr. Maria Dollhopf, International Coordinator, IVA, joined the meeting to discuss details of the IVA-JSPS seminar. Dr. Watanabe was one of the speakers at the seminar.



29

## Visit by Prof. Gunnar Öquist, Umeå University, and Prof. Mats Benner, Lund University

Prof. Gunnar Öquist, Umeå University, and Prof. Mats Benner, Lund University, visited JSPS Stockholm Office and explained their research, and Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo explained the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI).

### October

12

#### **Farewell Dinner Held for H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto, Embassy of Japan in Sweden**

JSPS Stockholm Office held a farewell dinner for H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto and wife to thank them both for their diplomatic service in Sweden, for their contributions and collaboration with JSPS Stockholm Office in terms of strengthening the academic collaboration between Sweden and Japan.



19

#### **Visit to the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University**

Director Akutsu and International program Associate Murakami visited the Medical Faculty at Lund University. They met with Prof. Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson, Dean of the Medical Faculty, Dr. Karin Frydenlund, Head of International Office, Prof. Lars B Dahlin, Prodean of Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. David Gisselsson Nord, Director of the Cancer Biology Programme. They explained the university's collaboration with Nagoya University, and asked about JSPS funding possibilities for foreign researchers. Director Akutsu explained the JSPS programs and activities of JSPS Stockholm Office.



23

#### **Meeting with SAC 10-year Anniversary Working Group members Prof. Imre Pázsit and Prof. Göran Thor**

Prof. Imre Pázsit, Chalmers University of Technology, and Prof. Göran Thor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), members of the SAC 10-Year Anniversary Working group visited JSPS Stockholm Office for a meeting to discuss details of the Alumni Club in Sweden's (SAC) 10-Year Anniversary Symposium.



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#### **Meeting with SAC Activity Seminar Organizer Prof. Heriberto Rodriguez-Martinez, Linköping University**

International Program Associate Michiko Murakami and Office Assistant Marika Tashima visited the Medicine Faculty at Linköping University to meet with Prof. Heriberto Rodriguez-Martinez. They discussed the preparation of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC) Activity seminar which was proposed by him.

28

#### **Visit by Dr. Hideyaki Murayama, University of Tokyo and Visiting Researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology**

Dr. Hideyaki Murayama, University of Tokyo and Visiting Researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology visited JSPS Stockholm Office. Dr. Murayama introduced his research and explained the exchange between KTH and the University of Tokyo. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo described JSPS' programs for international exchange, the activities of the Stockholm Office, and the parties exchange views on the collaboration between Sweden and Japan.





## November

4

Courtesy Call to H.E. Ambassador Jun Yamazaki, the Embassy of Japan in Sweden

JSPS Stockholm Office paid a courtesy call to the newly arrived H.E. Ambassador Jun Yamazaki.

Director Akutsu explained the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office and JSPS Programs, and Deputy Director Kawakubo explained the network of Japanese researchers in Sweden.

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### Meeting at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)

Director Akutsu, Deputy Director Kawakubo, and International Program Associate Ryoko Hirose, met with Dr. Johan Weigelt, Secretary to the Academy, IVA, Dr. Maria Dollhopf, International Coordinator, IVA, Mr. Edvard Fleetwood, Secretary General, Sweden-Japan Foundation, Michael G:son Löw, Director of Economics, IVA, Hampus Lindh, Project Manager, IVA, and Dr. Mia Horn af Rantzien, CEO, Centre for Business and Policy Studies (SNS).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss speakers and details of the second IVA-JSPS seminar in the FY2015 series, to be held in March 2016.

18

### Meeting with the Embassy of Japan in Denmark and Tokai University Alumni Association in Denmark

Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo visited Copenhagen for a meeting with the Embassy of Japan and Tokai University European Center, to discuss program details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan Alumni Assembly to be held on February 12 at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Participating in the meeting were Ms. Shima Hasegawa Moeller, Embassy of Japan, Dr. Hisahiro Tanka, Director, Tokai University European Center, Mr. Jacob Skyt Jensen, Staff, Tokai University Alumni Association in Denmark, and Dr. Sam Kondo Steffensen, Chair of the JSPS Alumni Club to be established in Denmark.

25

### Visitors from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and NRF Stockholm Office

Dr. Dong Seong Han, Director, National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), Stockholm Office, Mr. Jaesung Jung, Coordinator, NRF Stockholm Office, Mr. Daesup Chung, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and Ms. Ahn Jinju, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, visited JSPS Stockholm Office to exchange views and ideas on academic exchange and research collaboration with Sweden. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo explained the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office and JSPS programs.



30

### Visit by Dr. Makoto Oura, Hokkaido University

Dr. Makoto Oura, Hokkaido University and visiting researcher at Karolinska Institutet, visited JSPS Stockholm Office and explained the research life and future prospects in Sweden. Director Akutsu and Deputy Director Kawakubo introduced the activities of JSPS Stockholm Office.



## Japanese Astronaut Kimiya Yui Back on Earth After 141 Days in Space

Japanese Astronaut Kimiya Yui of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has returned safely on Earth after 141 days on board the International Space Station (ISS). Together with Expedition 44/45 crew members Kjell Lindgren of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Oleg Kononenko of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos), Kimiya Yui landed safely on Earth in the Russian spacecraft Soyuz TMA-17M spacecraft on December 11, 2015. The crew landed in Kazakhstan on schedule at 7:12 p.m. local time and rescue teams were on site to help the crew out of the space craft. The temperature was cold and the winds were strong, but a smiling Kimiya Yui emerged and was met by a doctor for a medical check before quickly being flown to the city of Jezkazgan.

Kimiya Yui was launched into space on July 22, 2015, and together with fellow crew members he participated in Earth observations and conducted research on board the space station in physical, biological and molecular science, for the purpose of advancing the knowledge and to demonstrate new technologies. One of the new technologies demonstrated included NASA's Veggie plant growth experiment, in which Kimiya Yui and Kjell Lindgren participated. The purpose of this experiment is to grow vegetables in space by using a flat panel light bank including red, blue and green LEDs to grow plants, and it could provide a sustainable food supplement for future astronauts. After 33 days of growth, red romaine lettuce was harvested and the two astronauts could enjoy the taste of fresh lettuce together with ISS commander Scott Kelly, NASA.

The growing of vegetables in space is especially critical on long-duration exploration missions that stretch farther into the solar system, such as the journey to Mars. It could also provide recreational gardening activities for astronauts, and it could have implications for improving the growth and production here on Earth.



*Astronauts Kimiya Yui and Kjell Lindgren run through a robotics simulation on board the space station.*

Photo: Courtesy of NASA Johnson

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/20113411993/>



*Back on Earth.*

Photo credit: NASA Johnson (NASA/GCTC/Andrey Shelepin)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/23643267392/>

### Sources:

- JAXA Press Release  
[http://global.jaxa.jp/press/2015/12/20151211\\_43s.html](http://global.jaxa.jp/press/2015/12/20151211_43s.html)
- NASA Press Release  
<http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-astronaut-kjell-lindgren-completes-space-station-mission-safely-returns-to-earth>
- The Japan News by Yomiuri Shimbun  
<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/000262223>
- More about the Veggie Plant experiment on Space.com  
<http://www.space.com/30209-astronauts-eat-space-lettuce.html>

### Japan-Sweden University Presidents' Summit Held in Tokyo at the Embassy of Sweden

On October 3, Presidents and Vice-Presidents from 22 leading Japanese and Swedish universities gathered at the Embassy of Sweden in Japan to discuss strategies for closer collaboration. The meeting was co-hosted by the Embassy of Sweden together with Nagoya University and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

At the meeting, the participants agreed that despite both countries high academic status and focus on research and development, the student exchange between the two countries was considered low, and that further actions are needed to increase mobility at all levels. It was also agreed that the cooperation between academia and industry is also an important factor to academic success, and the participants noted the potential in increased collaboration between the two countries.

Source: <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Tokyo/Current-affairs/News/Sweden-and-Japan-natural-partners-in-higher-education-sys/>

### Prof. Marie Söderberg Awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation for FY2015

On October 5, Prof. Marie Söderberg, Director of the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EJIS), Stockholm School of Economics, was invited to the Ambassador's Residence to receive the Foreign Minister's Commendation for FY2015, for promotion of Japan research in Sweden. The award was handed by H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto, and the Ambassador expressed his respect for the great contribution that Prof. Söderberg has made to the understanding of Japan during her 30 years of studying the country. H.E. Ambassador Morimoto mentioned the upcoming 150-years anniversary in 2018 of diplomatic relations between Japan and Sweden, and expressed hope that the two countries will continue to further strengthen the ties in the academic field as well as in other areas.

Sources:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
[http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000039.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000039.html)
- The Embassy of Japan in Sweden (Swedish)  
[http://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/aktivitet\\_151005.html](http://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/aktivitet_151005.html)



*Photo: Stockholm School of Economics*

<https://www.hhs.se/en/personon/?personId=4031033>

## Upcoming Seminars & Symposia

### January 14 The 4<sup>th</sup> Sweden-Japan Academic Network

Since 2012, JSPS Stockholm Office has together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Embassy of Japan co-organized the Sweden-Japan Academic Network. Participants include JSPS Alumni, Japan Governmental Scholarship Fellows, Japanese and Swedish researchers.

**Date:** January 14, 17:00-19:30

**Venue:** Beijer Hall, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Lilla Frescativägen 4a, Stockholm

**Speakers:**

Emeritus Prof. Kojiro Nishina, Nagoya University

Prof. Karl Grandin, Center for History of Science, KVA

**Registration:** In advance required. More information to be announced.

### January 15 JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden's (SAC) 10-Year Anniversary Symposium

The alumni club in Sweden was established by former JSPS fellows in 2005. To celebrate the Club's 10-year anniversary, a symposium focusing on "Exchange History of Swedish and Japanese Researchers and Its Future" will be held. The symposium is admission free and open to the public.

**Date:** January 15 (Friday), time TBA

**Venue:** The underground hall of the R1 Reactor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Drottning Kristinas Väg, Stockholm

**Speakers:**

- Keynote speech by Emeritus Prof. Kojiro Nishina, Nagoya University
- Keynote speech by Dr. Stefan Ekman, Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University
- Prof. Janne Wallenius, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Dr. Elin Palm, Linköping University and others.

Registration: In advance required. Please register and find more information on <http://www.jspsto.com/sac10yearregistration.aspx>

### January 20-21 SAC Activity Seminar: "Trans-Generational Disease Vulnerability: Does Epigenesis Explain it All?"

JSPS Stockholm Office offers financial support to seminars organized by members of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC).

**Date:** January 20 (from 13:00-), January 21 (from 09:00-)

**Venue:** Lecture room "Planck" in the Physics Building "Fysikhuset", Campus Valla, Linköping University

**Keynote Speaker:** Prof. Takeo Kubota, Yamanashi University

### February 1-3 KVA-JSPS Seminar

Since 2009, JSPS Stockholm Office has together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) organized seminars with Japanese lecturers. The 3rd and final seminar in the FY2015 series will be held with Prof. Takashi Kadowaki, the University of Tokyo. The theme of the seminar is "Molecular Mechanism of Insulin Resistance and Type 2 Diabetes". More information to be announced.

**Date and Venue:**

February 1, Karolinska Institutet

February 2, Lund University

February 3, Gothenburg University

**Keynote Speaker:** Prof. Takashi Kadowaki, the University of Tokyo

### February 12 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan Alumni Assembly in Denmark

The Embassy of Japan in Denmark, Tokai University Alumni Association, Denmark, and JSPS Stockholm Office will co-organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan Alumni Assembly for JSPS alumni, Tokai alumni, and MEXT scholars.

The General Assembly for the Establishment of the JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark will be held prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan Alumni Assembly. More information on both events to be announced.

**Date:** February 12

**Venue:** Glassalen, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

**Registration:** Please send an e-mail to [info@ch.mofa.go.jp](mailto:info@ch.mofa.go.jp) by February 5 with the following information:

- 1) Name
- 2) Associated organization (JSPS, Tokai, or MEXT).

Please find more information on <http://www.jspsto.com/activities.aspx>



## 6. Notice

### Call for JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs

#### 1) Standard & Short-term

JSPS offers several fellowship programs for young foreign researchers, to provide an opportunity to engage in research collaboration under the guidance of Japanese host researchers. If you are a researcher in the Nordic and Baltic countries, please go to <http://www.jsps-sto.com/jspsfellowships.aspx> for more information on how to apply.

#### 2) JSPS Summer Program\* (\*young researchers in Sweden)

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

Application deadline is February 9, 2016. Please find more information on:

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

STINT (nominating authority in Sweden) <http://www.stint.se/7/268>

### Call for SAC Activity Seminar applications FY2016

JSPS Stockholm Office offers financial support to activity seminars organized by members of the JSPS alumni Club in Sweden (SAC), with the possibility to invite one Japanese speaker. All board and regular members of the Club are eligible to apply for activity seminar funding.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2016.

Please find more information and application forms on <http://www.jsps-sto.com/activity-seminars.aspx>

### Become a member of JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark!

In September 2014, 6 former JSPS fellows formed the board of the soon to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark. The board members are currently preparing for the establishment, and would like to encourage all Danish JSPS fellows to register and become a member of the Club.

If you haven't registered for membership yet, please go to <http://www.jsps-sto.com/alumnidenmark.aspx> and become a member today!

## Subscribe to JSPS Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter by e-mail, please send us information on your name, title, affiliation and e-mail address to: [jsps-sto@jsps-sto.com](mailto:jsps-sto@jsps-sto.com).

Our newsletters are also available on our website for reading online.

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Cover: Monkeys in  
Nagano Hot Spring



By "Yosemite"

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jgokudani\\_hotspring\\_in\\_Nagano\\_Japan\\_001.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jgokudani_hotspring_in_Nagano_Japan_001.jpg)