JSPS Abend Held in Bonn

Every year, the JSPS Bonn Office puts on the JSPS Abend, to which it invites representatives of JSPS’s partner and other organizations in Germany. The event is held to introduce JSPS’s programs and expand the office’s circle of German counterparts and affiliates. For the second year in a row, JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono participated in the Abend, convened this time on 16 September at Hotel Bristol in Bonn, attended by some 70 people.

Following remarks from Prof. Ono, messages were delivered by Prof. Dr. Matthias Kleiner, president, German Research Foundation (DFG), Prof. Dr. Max Huber, vice-president, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and others. Highlighting the event was a Germany-Japan 150th anniversary lecture jointly delivered by Prof. Akira Baba, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Dr. Harald Meyer, University of Bonn, using the Trautz Collection of historical photographs of Japan stored at the university. These more than 1,000 photographs mainly taken during Meiji Japan had apparently been collected by Friedrich Max Trautz (1877-1952), who was the director of the Berlin-Japan Research Institute (Berlin Japaninstitut), and were recently discovered by Prof. Baba in the archives of the University of Bonn. Enhanced with these photographs, the lecture introduced various aspects of historical life and culture in Japan along with the early beginnings of Germany-Japan exchange.

In the latter half of the event, on behalf of Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz, president, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, AvH secretary general Dr. Enno Aufderheide presented Prof. Ono, who would soon be retiring as president of JSPS, with a medal conferred on those who have made special contributions to the Foundation and its programs.

— JSPS Bonn Office

Event Held in Germany to Introduce Japanese Universities

This event was held on 21 October in the Senckenberg Museum, located adjacent to Goethe University Frankfurt. Calling for the participation of Japanese universities with bases in Europe, the JSPS Bonn Office organizes it every year to pique the interest of students in Germany to take advantage of educational opportunities in Japan. About 80 people mostly students and faculty of the university attended the event.

The meeting was opened by JSPS Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, followed by remarks from Prof. Dr. Matthias Lutz-Bachmann, vice-president, Goethe University Frankfurt. Following them officials of the Embassy of Japan in Germany outlined Japan’s research framework, policy for receiving overseas students, and scholarship schemes; the deputy director of JSPS Bonn Office introduced its fellowship and other programs; and university representatives gave short presentations. After a coffee break, two former JSPS fellows spoke about their experiences in Japan, while a member of the German JSPS Club described its alumni activities. A special corner was set up in the hall for the students to converse with the university reps during the coffee breaks.

— JSPS Bonn Office

Workshop on Field Research and African Studies Held in Kenya

On 1-2 September, the JSPS Nairobi Research Station cosponsored a workshop with the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Venue in Nairobi, it addressed the theme “Approaches and Methodologies of Field Research in Africa.”

The event brought together young researchers from Japan and East Africa who are doing field research in and across such disciplines as cultural anthropology, sociology, ethnobotany, and area studies. They discussed their research activities and the approaches and methodologies they employ in carrying them out. The speakers described their own research processes as cases, touching upon their histories of identifying research topics and concepts, relationships with informants, research assistants and others, experiences in securing funding, and the societal impact of their research results.

The some 20 participants enjoyed sharing ideas and informa-