JSBS Holds 18th Japanese-German Symposium

On 26-27 April, the JSPS Bonn Office and German JSPS Club joined together to hold the eighteenth Japanese-German Symposium, this year on the theme “Art and Science.” Venued in Cologne in the central-western part of Germany, the event assembled more than 180 mostly alumni members. In addition to research advanced from art history perspectives, the symposium featured lectures on such subjects as art works using interactive digital media, *Hokusai manga* (Edo period sketches) studied from a cognitive neuroscience angle, and the tradition and scientific evolution of East Asian ceramics.

Eight German and Japanese researchers, curators and artists delivered these lectures. Adding a special Japanese ambience to the event was a *shakuhachi* flute performance by a German master of the art hailing from Mainz.

Recently, a prize had been establish by the German JSPS Club to be awarded to researchers who are making superb contributions to advancing exchange and building networks between Japan and the German-speaking region of Europe. At the award ceremony that followed the lecturers, one German researcher and one Germany-based Japanese researcher were given the prize, which as an added bonus included a roundtrip air ticket between the two countries.

The program of the symposium and the lecturers’ CVs and abstracts are posted on the Bonn Office’s website (http://www.jsps-bonn.de).

On grounds of Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne

Japan-Sweden Science & Technology Innovation Symposium 2013

On 7-8 March, the JSPS Stockholm Office teamed up with the Japanese Embassy in Sweden and the Chemical Society of Japan to hold Japan-Sweden Science & Technology Innovation Symposium 2013 titled “Lithium Ion Battery (LIB), the Inception, Development and Future.” These annual symposiums are convened to widely disseminate milestone scientific and technological developments being advanced in Japan. This year’s featured a presentation by LIB-inventor Dr. Akira Yoshino, Asahi Kasei Corporation, who spoke about the battery’s development and its future outlook.

With cooperation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and Chalmers University of Technology, the symposium was held in both Stockholm and Gothenburg. Attending the event at the two venues were some 180 people, including university and corporate researchers and inventors, who asked questions that spanned a spectrum from scientific development to commodification. Throughout, the symposium enjoyed a friendly yet animated atmosphere.

Each year the office holds these symposiums on different themes in an effort to strengthen Japan’s persona within Sweden’s academic community.

At Linköping University

Seminar Held on ICT by Sweden Alumni Club

On 8 March, the JSPS Sweden Alumni Club (SAC) held its annual seminar, this time on the theme “ICT-ethics: Sweden and Japan.” Held at Linköping University and organized by Dr. Elin Palm, the seminar featured a presentation by Prof. Kiyoshi Murata, School of Commerce, Meiji University, who was invited from Japan. The event advanced an energetic discussion on the ramifications of ICT-prolific society among researchers from mainly Linköping and Uppsala Universities.

It focused in on such issues as people’s perceptions and expectations regarding info-communication technologies, how to secure privacy and property rights within an intensifying ICT environment, and the role played by ICT in globalization.

JSPS Stockholm Office director Prof. Yoshiaki Fujii took advantage of the occasion to introduce JSPS’s fellowship and other programs as well as SAC’s activities.