Japanese-German Colloquium Held on Equal Participation and Diversity

On 30 November and 1 December, the 14th Japanese-German Colloquium was held in Berlin under the cosponsorship of the JSPS Bonn Office and the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) with the cooperation of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). This year, Korean experts were added to the discussion on gender policies and issues in each of the three countries.

An open symposium on the theme “Democracy without Equality?” was held on the first day. It began with remarks by JSPS Bonn Office director Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira and representatives of Japanese and German sponsoring organizations coupled with an introduction by Prof. Dr. Michiko Mae, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. They were followed by three sessions on topics of 1) Gender policies in Japan, Germany and Korea; 2) Equal participation, diversity, and work in a global economy; and 3) Future vistas of equal participation and diversity. The event attracted an audience of more than 100 people.

On the second day, a closed colloquium was held on “Equal Participation and Diversity,” featuring a vigorous discussion on the theme among experts from the three countries. Three sessions were also held: “Innovative political approaches towards gender equality and diversity,” “Participation and new forms of securing work and family life,” and “Paths towards participatory societies.”

The discussions advanced in them featured reports and concrete examples of the current situation of gender equality and diversity in each country.

The discussions in the colloquium were cross-disciplinary as they addressed matters of equal gender participation from various angles including women in executive and management positions, women’s work styles, work-life balance, men’s work styles, among other topics. It was confirmed through these discussions that issues of equal gender participation are still challenges to be overcome in Germany, Japan and Korea. It is expected that this colloquium, which assembled some 40 participants, will be a catalyst to further trilateral academic exchange on this theme of gender equality and diversity.

JSPS Bonn Office

Joint UK-Japan Symposium on Medical Imaging and Artificial Intelligence

On 23 January, the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) and JSPS jointly organized a one-day symposium on medical imaging and artificial intelligence (AI). It brought together experts in areas of medical imaging and artificial intelligence in a discussion on merging the two domains in new ways that can lead to groundbreaking advances in healthcare. The event provided a platform for spawning collaboration in this endeavor between the UK and Japan. It also provided a good opportunity to reflect on regulatory and ethical considerations involved in effectively moving forward research on such AI technologies.

Co-chairing the event were Prof. David Hawkes FMedSci, University College London, and Prof. Kensaku Mori, Nagoya University, who opened the symposium with messages of anticipation for a stimulating conversation on how AI-enhanced medical imaging can change the landscape of healthcare delivery—a conversation that they hoped would also strengthen collegial ties and working relationships between UK- and Japan-based scientists.

The meeting was attended by over 70 delegates, including academics, industry executives, and healthcare professionals. The speakers covered a range of topics, including the application of artificial intelligence to medical imaging, the use of machine learning in assisted medical procedures and in mental health prediction, and advances in quantitative neuroradiology. At the heart of all the talks was a desire to improve patient care and treatment outcomes.

The symposium concluded with a vibrant panel discussion on thought-evoking topics, including how scientific results can be translated into clinical solutions, the roles of academia and industry in the development of related AI technologies, and the future of healthcare—how it will be delivered and the skills that future healthcare workers will need to be able to interact with AI systems.

The symposium was followed by a reception, graciously hosted by the Japanese Ambassador to the UK, who spoke expectantly about the high potential for collaboration between the UK and Japan in forging landmark transitions in healthcare science and treatment, saying that he looked forward to the reception being an incubator for such vigorous networking between the two countries.

For more information on the activities of the JSPS London Office, please see the following website: http://www.jsps.org/news/