Research and Career Forum for Japanese Researchers in Germany

On 8 June, the JSPS Bonn Office held a gathering for young Japanese researchers currently residing in Germany with JSPS Overseas Research Fellowships. Venued at the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bonn, this year’s gathering brought together 11 fellows including some who were dispatched to Germany in the previous fiscal year. The Office launched this event in 2016 to create and support a Japanese researcher network in Germany. Due to the diverse research specialties of the fellows, their separate arrival dates, and their scattering across the country, it had not been easy for them to get to know each other.

Opening the meeting, the 11 fellows introduced themselves and their research activities. Ms. Sabine Ganter-Richter, a board member of the German JSPS Alumni Association (German JSPS Club) gave a briefing on support for scientific exchange between Germany and Japan. Two lectures by senior Japanese researchers based in Germany highlighted the event. Dr. Hiroyuki Nakamura, scientist, Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, shared his experience on setting up a research environment after arriving in Germany and gave the young researchers some tips on how to survive and thrive within the German research system. Dr. Shigeyoshi Inoue, professor, Department of Chemistry, Technical University of Munich, told about how his experience as a JSPS overseas research fellow and a Humboldt research fellow had paved the way to his current position at the university, and spoke about multi-track research career paths available in Germany. The young fellows listened with riveted attention to the two lectures, asking a volley of questions.

This year, members of JSPS’s Overseas Training Program Division took part in the event, providing information on support for young researchers wanting to build scientific careers in Japan. The event closed with remarks from JSPS Bonn Office director Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, after which the participants continued to discuss their research and life in Germany over refreshments.

The Bonn Office believes that strengthening collegial ties among the young Japanese fellows by providing them opportunities to gather and interact will help to make their research stays in Germany all the more fruitful.

MIRAI Sustainability Workshop Held in Sweden

On 7-8 June 2018, a MIRAI Sustainability Workshop was held at the University of Gothenburg on the theme “From Source to Sink—Human Society and the Flow of Water.” It was carried out under the MIRAI Project, launched via an agreement to strengthen the bilateral collaboration that was concluded at the Japan/Sweden University Presidents’ Summit held in Tokyo in October 2015. Eight Japanese and seven Swedish universities comprise the members of the Project, which organizes workshops in three scientific fields: Aging, Materials Science, and Sustainability.

On the second day, presentations were given by Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto, director of JSPS Stockholm Office, and Dr. Andreas Göthenberg, executive director of the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT), on their respective organizations’ research funding programs. The participants shared their research results and discoveries on water-related issues from the perspective of sustainability.

After the workshop, information regarding the annual MIRAI Seminar and next workshop held in Tokyo in October was announced.

For more details on these events, please see the following website:
http://www.mirai.nu/seminar2018/

JSPS Stockholm Office

JSPS Strasbourg Office Holds JSPS Briefing at Aix-Marseille

On 3 July, the JSPS Strasbourg Office held a JSPS program briefing at Aix-Marseille University (AMU) in Marseille, a large city of Southern France situated on the Mediterranean coast.

In the briefing, members of the Strasbourg Office introduced JSPS and its international exchange programs with special focus on JSPS’s Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan, to an audience of students, postdocs and young researchers. After which Dr. Giuseppe Di Molfetta and Dr. Philippe Mousse, both members of the JSPS French Alumni Association, shared their personal experiences in talking about their stays in Japan under JSPS’s invitation fellowships and how after coming back to France they have applied their Japan experiences to their research activities.

The Q&A session that followed these interesting presentations added to the fruitfulness of the briefing in that the nature of the