

JSPS-JSC Collaborative Symposium: Cultivating UK-Japan Research Collaboration through Sports, December 15th 2015

On 15th December 2015, a symposium jointly organized by JSPS London and the Japan Sport Council was hosted at the Loughborough University London Campus. The purpose of the event was to explore how primary research translates to sports both in the natural and social sciences and to generate UK-Japan collaborations through these interactions. There were over 70 attendees from institutions all over the UK and Japan. The symposium began with welcoming remarks from the Director of JSPS London, Professor Kunio Takeyasu and Professor James Skinner, Director at the Institute for Sport Business at the Loughborough University London Campus. The first half of the symposium consisted of presentations in the sports sciences covering a wide range of topics currently of most interest to the UK and Japan. The keynote speech was given by Ms. Naomi Stenhouse, Head of Projects and Performance at the English Institute of Sport who spoke about the various processes for prioritizing projects and the challenges faced by her institute. This was followed by the first session on sports medicine with a presentation from Professor Toru Suzuki, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leicester, who spoke about the use of mass spectrometry as a common analytical technique used in sports medicine. The second session on recovery was delivered by Dr. Michiko Dohi, from the Medical Centre of the Japan Institute of Sports Sciences. Her presentation discussed the range of fatigue recovery approaches being developed in order for competitive sports athletes to maintain their performance level. In the session on biomechanics that followed, Associate Professor Sekiya Koike of the University of Tsukuba and visiting researcher at the Sports Technology Institute, Loughborough University, spoke about examples of speed generation mechanisms in sports motions analyzed by using an equation of human motion. The final session in this segment on equipment development was delivered by Dr. Ruth Goodridge who presented the advances being made in additive manufacturing and 3D printing for sport equipment applications. An elevator session then followed for those displaying a poster at the event to present to the audience the theme of their work and encourage further discussion about this research during the coffee break.

The second half of the symposium covered social science topics around sport of relevance to the UK and Japan. The keynote speech was given by Professor Ian Henry, Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies and Research at Loughborough University. Professor Henry spoke about the elements involved in evaluating the legacy of mega sporting events such as the London 2012 Olympics and the implications and impact of such evaluation for the Tokyo 2020 and future editions of the Olympic games. The second session on the economic and social benefits of hosting major sporting events was delivered by Professor Chris Gratton, Co-director, Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University. His presentation covered the broad range of benefits adopted in national sports policies of governments in many countries and evidence on the size and nature of these benefits from recent major

events. The next session on sport participation was covered by Ms. Hiromi Nakamura from the Department of Information and International Relations at the Japan Sport Council. She discussed the challenges of the bio-psycho-sociological aspects of demonstrating increased sport participation at grassroots level as a benefit of a country hosting a mega sporting event. The final session on the topic of sport for development and peace was presented by Ms. Etsuko Yamada who assessed the “Sport for Tomorrow” initiative as a Japanese governmental programme to promote the values of sport and positive significance it is likely to have on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Following these presentations Professor James Skinner acted as rapporteur, highlighting the points that had been covered and leading the presenters into a panel discussion with the audience on topics including whether governments should spend taxpayers' money on sport and whether governments are fulfilling their accountability and transparency of their investment in sport. The symposium was then brought to a close with remarks from Mr. Soichiro Sano. Mr. Sano in his remarks also awarded the best poster prize to Mr. Ivan Vatulik from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Computing at Kingston University for his poster titled “Monitoring of Acoustic Emissions from Knee Joints.”

The event finished with a reception to allow for networking and the chance for further exchange with the presenters.



Symposium Speakers