

Sponsored by JSPS London and the Royal Society
Symposium to celebrate the Japan Edition of the Royal Society Publication:
“Philosophical Transaction B.”
Held at the Embassy of Japan, London

The symposium to celebrate the Japan edition of the Royal Society publication: “Philosophical Transaction B”, sponsored by JSPS London and the Royal Society was held at the Embassy of Japan in London on Monday, June 16th.

“Philosophical Transaction” was first launched in 1665, and for 350 years it has a history of science teaching in the fields of natural science. Later, split into parts A (focusing on mathematics and physical systems) and part B (focusing on biological systems), the publication became a double feature. This particular Japan Edition features the latest developments in biological sciences of which Japan is proud. Furthermore, this is the first time in the history of the publication that in the same magazine all the features are from Japan. Professor Yamanaka from Kyoto University, an authority on iPS cell research, is an author of one of these articles.

The purpose of the symposium was to introduce to a wide scientific community in the UK and also internationally, the cutting edge developments in biological science from Japan that are featured in the publication, and at the same time to also promote collaborative research between the UK and Japan. This symposium was approved as a JAPAN-UK 150 event that commemorates the establishment of a diplomacy agreement between the UK and Japan 150 years ago. This event received full cooperation from the Embassy of Japan in London.

On the day, there were approximately 100 people in attendance from various universities and research institutions in the UK and the symposium was chaired by the Director of JSPS London, Professor Furukawa. To start the proceedings, the current Editor in Chief of “Philosophical Transactions B”, Professor Georgina Mace, gave some opening remarks. This was followed by a welcoming address from the Ambassador of Japan based in London, His Excellency, Mr. Ebihara. Professor Semir Seki, from the University College London, also gave a speech at the start, as the original editor, he explained about the circumstances surrounding the publication of this Japan Edition. The main part of the symposium was divided into three sessions with leading academics from Japan invited as the guest speakers. These speakers included from the area of Stem Cell Biology, Professor Okano of Keio University, Professor Futai from Iwate Medical University lecturing on Single Molecule Imaging and from the field of Neuroscience, Professor Iriki from the Riken Brain Science Institute. After each session, a corresponding researcher from the UK gave their response to the lecture. This was followed by an active questions and answer section from the audience, which showed that researchers in the UK have a strong interest in the developments discussed during the lectures. On this note, the proceedings were brought to a successful close. Following this part of the symposium was a reception, during which the guest speakers answered many more questions regarding their work, making it an effective forum for research exchange between the UK and Japan.

