

One of the JSPS Alumni Members, Dr Peter Martin (University of Bristol, Interface Analysis Centre, School of Physics), in collaboration with the South West Nuclear Hub recently co-organised a joint UK-Japan Symposium entitled “Evaluating the Long-Term Environmental Consequences of the FDNPP Accident”. The event saw over 80 delegates from both the UK and Japan providing active and stimulating discussions on the effects of the March 2011 accident at the Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

The three-day event, from the 14th – 16th August 2018, took place in the HH Wills Physics Laboratory at the University of Bristol (UoB) and was generously supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) London, with over 80 attendees from Japan and the UK.

The theme of the symposium was intentionally wide and encompassed the entire tranche of work being undertaken around the world to analyse the short and long-term environmental impacts of the FDNPP accident. This topic is now more important than ever, with the clean-up of the contaminated Fukushima Prefecture continuing at an unabating pace and with the repopulation of formerly evacuated citizens back to their homes. The current field of research is cross-cutting across numerous scientific disciplines – including physics, chemistry, ecology and materials sciences; with this symposium seeking to establish a forum for valuable discussions.

The symposium was opened by the director of the JSPS London, Prof. Nobou Ueno, emphasising the bi-directional collaboration between Japan and the UK in the longer-term. Prof. Ueno noted that the University of Bristol was one of the UK universities that was most significantly engaged in collaborations with Japan and that this was evident by the networks that had already been established and impressive history of output.

Visiting overseas speakers at the event included those from the Japan Atomic Energy Agencies newly established Collaborative Laboratories for Advanced Decommissioning Science (CLADS) and Kyoto University Research Reactor Institute (KURRI). Talks at the event included those from Prof. Nick Beresford (Centre for Ecology and Hydrogeology), drawing comparisons between Fukushima and Chernobyl; Prof. Neil Willey (UWE), on the radiation induced damage to plants; Prof. Philip Thomas (UoB), on the societal impact of a large nuclear accident such as Fukushima, Dr. Neil Fuller (University of Portsmouth), on the impact of radiation on marine life; Dr. Tomas Martin (UoB), on new analytical technique to isotopically evaluate fallout particulate; and Dr. Rob Malkin (UoB), on the current monitoring ongoing on the FDNPP site.

Through continued open discussions during the symposium talks as well as during the evening networking event and tour of Bristol, existing networks have been cemented – with an extensive number of new networks with researchers around the world also established. Further events and visits are planned over the coming months and years.



Symposium Participants