

## **Pre Departure Seminar and Alumni Evening on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 recent awardees of JSPS Fellowships as well as researchers involved in institutional level Core-to-Core projects were invited to the JSPS London offices for a pre departure seminar to help them prepare for their upcoming research visits to Japan.

The seminar was well attended and started with welcoming remarks from the Director of JSPS London, Professor Kozo Hiramatsu. This was followed by a short self introduction by each participant so similar areas of research and institutions being visited in Japan could be linked. In this group our fellows will be visiting a varied array of departments at universities and research institutions all over Japan. From the Laboratory of Quantum Beam Systems, University of Hokkaido in the north to the Department of Earth System Science and Technology, Kyushu University in the South. The seminar was presided over by Ms. Polly Watson, International Programme Coordinator of JSPS London, who at first explained the purpose of the event and about the different presentations that were to follow.

The first presentation by Mr. Hideyuki Matsumoto, Deputy Director of JSPS London, gave an essential introduction to JSPS, the preparation JSPS researchers need to make and kinds of assistance available from JSPS. Ms. Polly Watson then explained about the further preparations and procedures that were specific to Summer Programme fellows.

UK-JSPS Alumni Association members were also invited to talk about their experiences of living and research environments in Japan. These included Mr. Charley Renney from the University of Bristol and Dr. Adam Clare from the University of Nottingham. Both gave very thoughtful and practical advice about getting the most out of a JSPS Fellowship through a humorous and enthusiast delivery of their presentations. They covered a wide range of topics from Japanese etiquette and accommodation options to building networks with Japanese researchers to put to rest any anxieties and to get the new JSPS fellows looking forward to going to Japan.

JSPS London was also pleased to have in attendance two guest speakers from other distinguished funding organizations to speak about further funding opportunities they offer to do research in Japan. They were Dr. Kimberly Hutchings, Scheme Manager of Grants at the Royal Society and Mr. Stephen McEnally, Chief Executive of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

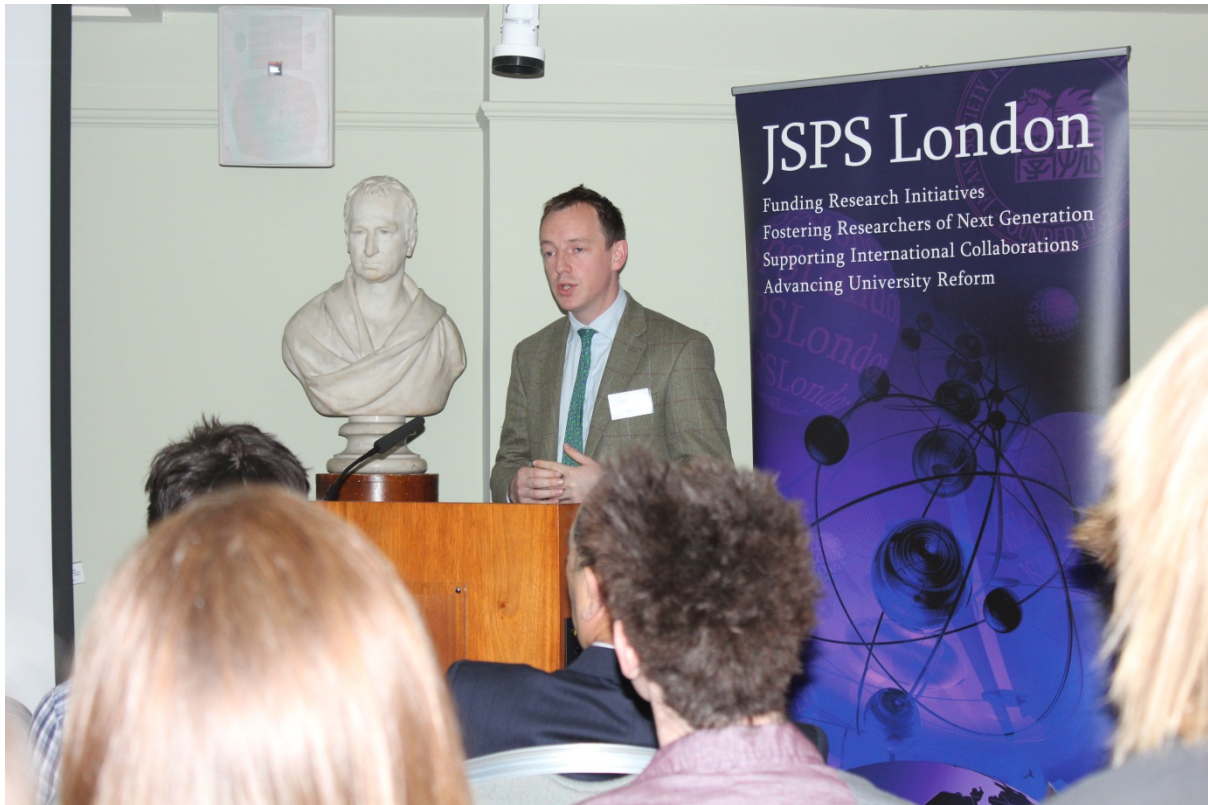
**Pictures from the event: Pre Departure Seminar**



Self Introductions by participants: Professor Jurgen Berndt (King's College London), Invitation Fellow



Mr. Charley Renney (University of Bristol), Summer Programme Fellow, 2012



Dr. Adam Clare (University of Nottingham), UK-JSPS Alumni Association



Dr Kimberly Hutchings, Scheme Manager, Grants, Royal Society



Mr. Stephen McEnally, Chief Executive, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation

**Pictures from the event: Alumni Evening**



Dr. Martyn Kingsbury, Chairperson of the UK-JSPS Alumni Association



Alumni Research Promotion Session Speaker: Professor Honghai Liu (University of Portsmouth)



Alumni Research Promotion Session Speaker: Dr. Ana Tajadura Jimenez, (UCL)



Alumni Research Promotion Session Speaker: Dr. Ruth Goodridge (University of Nottingham)



Mr. Julian O'Halloran, BBC

After the pre-departure seminar, the UK-JSPS Alumni Association held an alumni evening for networking among members and new JSPS fellows in a relaxed atmosphere. Dr. Martyn Kingsbury, the Chair of the UK-JSPS Alumni Association, gave an opening speech in which he talked about the

work of the UK-JSPS Alumni Association for the benefit of the newest fellows present. He mentioned in particular the progress of the two alumni re-visitation schemes and the alumni symposium scheme which are funding programmes exclusive to members as well as plans for a new prize. He also mentioned the string of events that recently took place to commemorate the JSPS' 80th Anniversary in 2012 and thanked all JSPS Alumni for their great support. Dr. Kingsbury's presentation was followed by the Alumni Research Promotion Sessions. This consisted of 3, 10 minute presentations from UK-JSPS Alumni Association members to give the chance for Alumni to advertise current research, seek advice from peers or complimentary expertise for new research areas and investigate opportunities to collaborate with other alumni members. These 3 short presentation themes and the presenters were: "Exploring Human Hand Capabilities into Prosthetic Manipulation," Professor Honghai Liu, School of Creative Technologies, University of Portsmouth. "THE HEARING BODY: How auditory perception influences body representation," Dr. Ana Tajadura Jimenez, UCL Interaction Centre. "3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing," Dr. Ruth Goodridge, Faculty of Engineering, University of Nottingham. The final presentation of the Alumni evening was given by Mr. Julian O'Halloran, Presenter of BBC Current Affairs who talked about effective communication of science to a wider audience. These presentations were followed by a drinks reception and buffet to allow for networking and the chance for further informal discussion with the presenters.

#### Alumni Networking Event



### **Comments from attendees:**

“The seminar in London was both highly useful and inspiring. It was useful on matters such as visas, liaison with research partners and exchanging money. All of which can be daunting, but which were well explained. It was inspiring in that there were so many bright and eager people there from the UK and other European countries. I really enjoyed hearing their past experiences and future plans. Everyone should try to attend the seminar.”

### **Professor Howard Gospel (King’ s College London), Invitation Fellow**

“As well as excitement, there is understandably some trepidation about leaving your home country and going as far abroad as Japan. The JSPS pre-departure meeting brought together a group of researchers about to make the bold move and completely put them at ease. With a number of talks about practical issues and some brilliant stories from past JSPS fellows, there was a great atmosphere amongst the new group of awardees. I feel lucky to have the support of JSPS for my studies.”

### **Mr. Joseph M Rogers (University of Cambridge), Short Term Postdoctoral Fellow**

“I have recently been awarded a placement on the JSPS summer program that will enable me to conduct research at the University of Hokkaido in Sapporo. I have not been to Japan previously and the prospect of spending two months in a country with a profoundly different culture compared to my own is quite daunting. The Pre Departure Seminar hosted by JSPS London was a great event, alleviating my worries. I particularly enjoyed the alumni presentations. These presentations emphasized how great an opportunity it is to go to a foreign country, to meet new friends, and to broaden ones horizon. I was keen to visit Japan prior to the meeting, and now I cannot wait to go and experience this great country myself.”

### **Mr. Heiko Moossen (University of Birmingham), Summer Programme Fellow**

Finally, JSPS London would like to wish all of our new fellows a successful research trip to Japan and we hope they will join the UK-JSPS Alumni Association on their return to the UK.

