

Short report of activities

JSPS Invitation fellowship for Research in Japan

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Host: Prof Shoshiro Minobe (Hokkaido University, Department of Natural History Sciences, Graduate School of Science)

I am a climate scientist working in the department of Physics at Imperial College, London. My visit to Japan was triggered by a meeting in London in 2012 with Prof Minobe from Hokkaido University. Prof Minobe suggested he could apply on my behalf to JSPS for a short visit fellowship (4 weeks), allowing us to interact more directly.

I arrived in Japan on April 1st 2013 and spent 3 weeks in Sapporo where I worked with Prof Minobe and his colleagues, our main goal being to understand the mechanisms by which the Gulf Stream seems responsible for “anchoring” rainfall patterns in the Japanese climate model. I then moved on to the Tokyo area (one week stay) where I visited three different climate centres. I gave a total of four lectures over my 4-week stay (see picture below).

On the practical side, I rented a flat in Sapporo because I wanted to experience more directly a “Japanese way” of life, in particular cooking! In Tokyo I stayed in a Ryokan in the lively district of Asakusa –it offered excellent connections to the different climate centres I visited. I had plenty of opportunities to discover Hokkaido on the week-ends. I would certainly recommend Hakodate as a unique blend of western and eastern cultures, and also, of course, onsens! (Prof Minobe very generously spent a week-end with me in one of the onsens in the Toya Lake region –see picture below).

In short, I came back to London full of ideas about work, with a strengthened scientific collaboration with Japanese climate scientists, but also enriched by so many lovely moments spent with my Japanese hosts!



Visiting the Toya Lake area with Prof Minobe and Dr Na during my 2nd week-end in Hokkaido.



Giving a lecture at the University of Tokyo (Kombawa campus)