

Report of Research Experience as a JSPS Fellow

I was honoured to be invited to visit Japan as a JSPS short-term fellow from 10 April 2014 – 9 May 2014. My host was Dr Manabu Hirano, from the Department of Information and Computer Engineering, Toyota National College of Technology, who had visited me at the University of Kent for six months in 2012. We had worked together on integrating my group's PERMIS authorisation infrastructure into his hypervisor for PCs, and this research was presented at a computer science conference in July 2013. The purpose of my visit to Japan was to strengthen our existing relationship and explore the creation of new ones.

During my four weeks in Japan I gave two lectures on federated identity management to students from Toyota National College of Technology, a seminar at Professor Suguru Yamaguchi's laboratory at the Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST), Ikoma city, Nara and an evening seminar on PKI trust frameworks at the Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC), Kanda, Tokyo. I also had meetings with Professor Yoshihiro Oyama from the Department of Informatics, The University of Electro-Communications, Chofu city, Tokyo, Dr. Eiji Kawai from the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Otemachi, Tokyo, and Professor Yokoyama from the National Institute of Informatics (NII), Tokyo, where we discussed possible future research collaborations e.g. for Horizon 2020. Working conditions at Toyota College were perfect. I had my own office near to Dr Hirano's, so that we could meet frequently. My office had a fast Internet connection, so that I could keep in contact with my research team in the UK whilst I was away.



Evening seminar at JPNIC

As my trip was for 4 weeks, I travelled to Japan with my wife. April is a wonderful time to visit Japan. Even though we missed the start of the Cherry Blossom season, we still managed to catch the last blooms and falling petals. The weather is remarkably kind to visitor's at this time of year, with it being neither too hot and humid nor too freezing cold.

Japan is a fascinating place to visit. The people are extremely polite and kind, and helpful to strangers. We had no shortage of tourist locations to visit at the weekends, and the trains run frequently and always on time. We managed to immerse ourselves in the culture and diet to such an extent that we were extremely sad to leave when the time came.

Accommodation can be quite difficult to find, and expensive. Consequently, we decided to stay in different hotels as we travelled from Toyota to Nara to Tokyo and back, rather than to have a permanent base near to the college. Since we both love Japanese food, eating out for most meals did not pose a problem. Since most Japanese commuters eat out most days, there are plenty of reasonably priced restaurants everywhere to choose from.