

I have been visiting Japan regularly since early 2000. Over the last decade I have noticed an increasing interest in assistive technologies, in particular technologies aimed at supporting an aging population and people living with physical and/or mental disability.

In the long series of visits, in 2013, I have enjoyed a wide variety of research endeavors, from classic robotics and monitoring technology, to advanced robotics with work on humanoids. Service robotics also appears to be increasingly stronger, with studies that are no longer simply computer science and engineering studies, but more multidisciplinary research collaborations, also including physicians, sociologists, and psychologists. Interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies are becoming more widespread and this seems to be a trend in the Far East as much as in the West. My impression of Science and Technology in Japan has not changed much in the last decade, with a strong class of technologists targeting very practical solutions to scientific and engineering problems, following a very rigorous and incredibly structured approach.



Tokyo Metropolitan University  
Prof. Naoyuki Kubota



RIKEN, Nagoya  
Dr Shigeyuki Hosoe



Dr Shuuji Kajita  
AIST, Tsukuba



Prof. Yasushi Nakauchi  
Tsukuba University

*Professor Paolo Remagnino, The Robot Vision Team at Kingston University*