



Japan

A Fascinating Country

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CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

My Background

- ❁ 1992/93 JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship at Kyoto University
- ❁ 2000 Visiting scientist at Chuo University / Tokyo
- ❁ 2004 Visiting professor at Osaka University
- ❁ 2008 Visiting professor at Osaka Prefectural University
- ❁ 2012 JSPS short-term fellowship at Kyoto University
- ❁ 79 scientific lectures given in Japan during 16 visits

Culture

- ✿ New culture and different environment
- ✿ Language / Communication
- ✿ Most Japanese can understand English, but cannot speak
- ✿ Japanese is a quite difficult modern language – combination of three different scripts



Scientific life

- ❁ Working conditions are different
- ❁ Good facilities
- ❁ Staff is extremely polite and helpful
- ❁ Working hours can be different
- ❁ Build lots of contacts during your work

Life in Japan

- ❁ **Accommodation:** University Guest Houses, weekly/monthly mansion, rented apartment (guarantor/deposit necessary)
- ❁ **Money:** Cash oriented, foreigners can open bank account easily (easier with help of host)
- ❁ **Transportation:** Excellent train system, buses can be complicated, taxis expensive, hire car with UK driving licence, bicycles
- ❁ **Communication:** Mobile Phone / email culture





Life in Japan

- ❁ **Eating:** large variety of exciting food, some restaurants have English menus, almost all restaurants have pictures/plastic models of food
- ❁ **Leisure:** Traditional Japanese events: Matsuri, Hanami, Hanabi, Onsen, Sports
- ❁ **Sightseeing:** Many interesting places in big and in small cities and also in rural parts



Language



- ❁ Learn some Japanese
- ❁ ひらがな カタカナ 漢字
- ❁ JSPS provides generous support for Japanese tuition – make use of it!
- ❁ Make Japanese friends – try and speak Japanese



The way to Japan is long – and the way to understanding Japan might be even longer.

Take your chance and enjoy Japan – scientifically and personally.

Act as an ambassador to enhance science and become a bridge between the U.K. and Japan.