exchange of scientific views while creating new links and even-closer collaboration between the French and Japanese researchers. Held in parallel with the workshop, a general assembly of the JSPS French Alumni Association was convened at INSA Lyon on 19 June. An election of four board members was held, in which Dr. Isabelle Sasaki, Paul Sabatier University (Toulouse III), was elected as the association’s new president, and Prof. Bernard Deconihout, University of Rouen, and Prof. Marie-Aleth Lacaille-Dubois, University of Burgundy, as its vice-presidents. Strasbourg Office director Prof. Yoichi Nakatani extended warm words of appreciation to Prof. Marie-Claire Lett, University of Strasbourg, for her superb contributions over the eight years she served as the alumni association’s president, and wished the association’s members continued success in their vital role of providing a pivotal interface between French and Japanese researchers.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

Strasbourg Office Holds Seminar on “Science and Technology in Japan”

Held on 25 May, this seminar celebrated the 10th anniversary of cooperation between JSPS’s Strasbourg Office and Maison Universitaire France-Japon (MUFJ) along with the 80th anniversary of JSPS’s establishment. Themed “Science and Technology in Japan: What Lessons Can France Learn?” (Science et Technologie au Japon: quels enseignements pour la France?), the seminar featured a speech by Jean-Louis Armand, emeritus professor of the Aix-Marseille Université and former science and technology counselor at the Embassy of France in Japan. His talk revisited the history of Japan’s science and technology development after the Meiji Era, transitioning to technology transfer from and scientific collaboration with France. It sparked a spirited discussion among the members of the audience.

Remarks were also delivered by Prof. Alain Beretz, president of the University of Strasbourg, Mr. Hiroshi Karube, Consul General of Japan in Strasbourg, and Prof. Jean-Yves Mérindol, Counselor of the President of France for Higher Education and Research and former president of the University of Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg). Each emphasized the importance of vibrant academic cooperation between France and Japan.

— JSPS Strasbourg Office

Beijing Office Holds Program Briefings in China and South Korea

On 2 June, the JSPS Beijing Office held a program briefing at Central China Normal University, located in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Again on 14 June, we held a briefing at Korea Maritime University, located in Busan, South Korea.

The briefing at Central China Normal University was attended by about 50 young researchers from its Center for Chinese Rural Studies, who responded attentively to a presentation on JSPS’s program offerings and the activities of the Beijing Office.

The briefing at Korea Maritime University was held upon a request from Korean researchers engaged in joint research with Japan. About 20 researchers in fields of the social sciences received a program description centering upon JSPS’s invitational fellowships. The following Q&A session saw very tangible inquiries such as how to fill out fellowship application forms. The spirited interaction at the meeting testified to the high Korean interest in JSPS programs.

In the future, the Beijing Office will not confine itself to China but in cooperation with related institutions will provide briefings to researchers in the wider East Asian region, where interest abounds in the opportunities provided by JSPS. While building and strengthening networks, we will strive to advance scientific collaboration within the region.

— JSPS Beijing Office