

Symposium and Medal Award Ceremony Held in Thailand

On 27 February, two events were held in Thailand: a JSPS-NRCT RONPAKU Medal Award Ceremony, in which the new RONPAKU laureates presented their PhD theses, and a JSPS-JAAT-NRCT Seminar on “Health and Aging.”

The medal award ceremony was held to both recognize the great efforts made by the RONPAKU fellows who received their PhDs from Japanese universities in the previous fiscal year and to give them added encouragement as they go on in advancing their research activities. Six of the seven FY2013 RONPAKU graduates attended the ceremony. At it, Mr. Krishawat Nopnakepongse, deputy secretary-general of



Awarded RONPAKU fellows

the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), and Dr. Suneel Mallikarjun, president of the JSPS Alumni Association of Thailand (JAAT), offered congratulatory remarks, after which Prof. Kuniaki Yamashita, director of the JSPS Bangkok Office, presented the medals to the RONPAKU laureates.

That afternoon, the JSPS-JAAT-NRCT Seminar was held. Its keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Kazuhiko Hamamoto of Tokai University on the theme “An Intuitive Human-Interface: Web Usability and Virtual Reality.” It addressed measures that can be taken to make the Internet easier for the elderly to use. Then, JAAT executive committee member Dr. Wichet Leelamanit, assistant professor at Mahidol University, gave a presentation on the topic “Herbal and Dietary Supplements for Elderly People.” In developing this theme, he introduced from a pharmaceutical perspective various nutrients and their benefits in sustaining the health and youthfulness of seniors, while giving concrete examples of how efficacious vegetables and supplements should be utilized.

After these speeches, the six RONPAKU laureates gave presentations on their respective research themes.

JSPS Bangkok Office

JSPS French Alumni Association Holds Commemorative Meeting

On 17 April, the JSPS Strasbourg Office and JSPS French Alumni Association teamed up to hold a meeting for the purpose of celebrating the tenth anniversary of the alumni association. Co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan in France, it was attended by some 100 people, including the alumni, Japanese researchers living in France, and members of French and Japanese government ministries and science agencies.

The meeting began with welcoming and congratulatory remarks from Alumni Association president Dr. Isabelle Sasaki and Ambassador Yoichi Suzuki, followed by a keynote lecture from Dr. Jean-Marie Lehn, professor, University of Strasbourg (1987 Nobel laureate in chemistry and honorary president of the alumni association). It was titled “Towards Complex Matter: Chemistry? Chemistry!” Standing in front of an audience of diverse backgrounds, he spoke about the role of chemistry and its future prospects and potentialities. Drawing upon examples of scientists who have made great achievements, he said that chemistry is not a matter of mere discovery, but of “creativity.” Having listened intently, the attendees engaged Dr. Lehn in a vigorous exchange of questions and answers.

At the following reception, Dr. Marie-Claire Lett, professor of University of Strasbourg and director of Maison Universitaire France-Japon (former president of the alumni association), offered remarks and

posed a toast in celebration of the association’s landmark anniversary, after which all enjoyed the chance offered by the reception to pleasantly chat, renew acquaintances, and make new friends.

It was thanks to the generous cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in France that this meeting could be carried out so successfully. Its holding gave many people a good opportunity to learn about the alumni association, while offering French and Japanese researchers a chance to meet and get to know one another.

JSPS Strasbourg Office



Lecture by Prof. Lehn

18th Meeting of Japan-India Science Council Held in Tokyo

Cosponsored by JSPS and India’s Department of Science & Technology (DST), the eighteenth meeting of Japan-India Science Council was held in Tokyo on 16 March. The meeting, which assembled 14 Council members, all distinguished Japanese and Indian



Holding the signed minutes

scientists, was co-chaired by High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) director general Prof. Atsuto Suzuki and Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics director Prof. Milan Kumar Sanyal. It was also attended by JSPS president Dr. Yuichiro Anzai and executive director Dr. Makoto Asashima.

Against a backdrop of increasingly far-reaching and widely diversifying demands for Indo-Japanese scientific collaboration, the Council selected the joint research projects and seminars to be carried out in the 2015 fiscal year and planned the upcoming activities of the Japan-India Cooperative Science Program, including the Special Lecture Tour Program implemented under it. Also discussed were future exchange activities and a publication commemorating the Cooperative Program’s 20-year anniversary. It was decided to hold the next meeting during the first quarter of 2016 in Chennai, India.

Bilateral Cooperation Division