



JSPS US Fellows Alumni Association

2nd Issue, January 2007

Editor: Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, DDS., PhD.

Associate Editor: Yoke Khin Yap, PhD.

Function and Organization of the JSPS Washington Office

The JSPS Washington Office is located on 1800 K Street, NW in Washington, DC. It is nearby Farragut North and Farragut West Metro rail stations. The office is within the DC metropolitan area and in the vicinity of the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. These important organizations are all the US counterparts of JSPS.

The JSPS Washington Office annually holds the "Science in Japan" Forum. These forums feature lectures by leading Japanese researchers. Since 1996 these forums have been held for eleven consecutive years. In addition to the "Science in Japan" forum, the Washington Office also cosponsors science symposia with American universities throughout the United States. Recently, a joint symposium was held with the National Institutes of Health at the NIH in Bethesda, MD. Previous to that, a symposium was held at the University of North Texas, co-sponsored by its Physics Department. These symposia provide the opportunity for researchers to exchange knowledge and create collaborative relationships.

In 2004, the Washington Office supported former JSPS fellows who were interested in forming an alumni organization. The former fellows soon after founded the US-JSPS Fellows Alumni Association. The Washington Office provides support for alumni activities such as science symposia, alumni meetings, and newsletter.

Staff members in the office are:



Professor Akira Masaïke

Director, JSPS Washington Office
Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University
Professor of Physics and Astrophysics at Kyoto University
and KEK (National Laboratory for High Energy Physics)



Mr. Hideshi Kobayashi

Deputy Director, JSPS Washington Office
JSPS employee since 1993 in the Postdoctoral Fellow
for Foreign Researchers Program and Orientation for
JSPS Fellows Program, he has implemented reforms
to enhance Fellowship Program.



Mr. Junichi Hirata
Advisor, JSPS Washington Office
Originally from the Japanese Ministry of Education,
Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Unit Chief.



Ms. Miki Yamaguchi
International Program Associate,
JSPS Washington Office
Originally from the Japan Advanced Institute
International Program, Associate of Science and
Technology in the Research Cooperation Division
(former) and General Affairs Division (current)



Mr. Hiroshi Oikawa
International Program Associate, JSPS Washington Office
Originally from Tohoku University in the
International Affairs Department.



Mr. Thet Win
Liaison Officer, JSPS Washington Office
"Secretary" of the US-JSPS Fellows Alumni
Association

News from the JSPS San Francisco Office

Introducing “Junba” Japanese University Network in the Bay Area

JUNBA is a network among officers of Japanese university offices in the Bay Area. The current core members include officers of Hosei University, Kagoshima University, Kyushu University, Osaka University, and Tohoku University. Director of JSPS -SF Office joined as a core member to promote the activities of JUNBA.

The mission of JUNBA is to assist the enhancement of education and research activities and the creation of new businesses for Japanese universities, by helping their internationalization movements, by helping the training of their students and personnel and by promoting development of academia-industry relationships between Japan and the United States.

The current members of JUNBA, including officers, board members, and advisory committee members are as follows:

President:

Prof. Yoshikatsu Murooka
Executive Director, Osaka University San Francisco Education and Research Center

Vice President:

Prof. Seishi Takeda, Director, JSPS SF Office /KEK-High Energy Accelerator Research Organization

Board Members:

Mr. Yuji Ide, Director, Kagoshima University VBL Silicon Valley Office
Dr. Masato Matsuo, Director, Kyushu University California Office
Dr. Toshihiko Nishimura, Deputy Director, Tohoku University US Office
Dr. Tai Hasegawa, Alumni Association in San Francisco, The University of Tokyo
Dr. Hiroshi Yagi, President & CEO, IMAnet, Inc.
Prof. Hiroko Yamazaki, Associate Professor, Yokohama City University

Advisory Committee:

Honorary Committee Member:
Mr. Makoto Yamanaka, Consul General, Consulate-General Japan in San Francisco
Committee Members:
Mr. Yuji Muranaga, Chief Executive Director, JETRO San Francisco Center
Mr. George Hara, Chairman, DEFTA Partners Group
Prof. Yoshio Nishi, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University

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www.junba.org
www.jpsusa-sf.org

Academia Summit

Date:

Thursday, January 11th, 2007

Time:

Summit 1:00 PM - 5:05 PM

Reception: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Venue:

"Academia Summit"

Conference Room, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

"Reception"

Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco

Hosted by JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area)

Co-organized by

Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

JSPS - Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Supported by

JETRO San Francisco

Japanese University Network in the Bay Area

JUNBA SUMMIT & SYMPOSIUM

Tohoku University
University of Tokyo
Waseda University
Keio University
Hasei University
Yokohama City University
Osaka University
Kyushu University
Kagoshima University

HOST
JUNBA
CO ORGANIZERS
Consulate General of Japan
JSPS
SUPPORTER
JETRO San Francisco

January 11 Academia Summit (closed meeting)
January 12 "Nano-material Science" Symposium

Venue : Stanford University's Bio-X Building

For symposium schedule and FREE registration please visit
www.jspusa-sf.org/junba

Small images at the bottom: a globe, a person, a building, a person, a person, a person.

Message from the Editor of the JSPS US Alumni Association Newsletter
Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, DDS., PhD.



"akemashite omedeto gozaimasu"

明けましておめでとうございます。

Congratulations for the New Year! It is very exciting for me to team up with Yoke as Editor of the Newsletter. We have been working hard to encourage our fellows to collaborate and send their contributions for this winter issue. Thank you to all who gladly responded.

Among our challenges for this year, we are planning to have an issue ready for each season. This will demand more effort and we are counting on the Alumni eagerness to support this project and assist us to keep a continuous update of your academic, research and social activities posted so that communication can be improved. The newsletter should serve as a bond that will strengthen research collaboration, scientific exchange and fellowship among our members.

We wish you and your families health and the best of success for 2007!

"Honnen mo douzo yoroshiku onegaitashimasu"

今年もどうぞよろしくお
願いします。

The Structure of Current JSPS US Alumni Association

On September 30, 2006 the newly elected regional representatives gathered in Washington D.C. to convene the Alumni Committee. **The regional representatives** are as follows,

West: Hedong Niu hdniu@yahoo.com

Midwest: Blanca R. Chattin-Kacouris quail66@yahoo.com

Southwest: Arup Neogi arup@unt.edu

Southeast: Wael Zatar zatar@marshall.edu

Northeast: Jan Zeserson jz17@cornell.edu

(Please refer to the first issue of our newsletter for the geographical classification of the regions)

Arup Neogi and Wael Zatar were then selected as chair and vicechair persons, respectively. Mr. Thet Win from JSPS Washington Office serves as the liaison for the Alumni.

The URL of the association (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jspususa/>), the by-laws, and the Alumni Association Newsletter appear on the JSPS Washington Office web site <http://www.jspususa.org/>. Blanca Chattin-Kacouris is now serving as the Editor of the Newsletter with the assistance of Yoke Khin Yap as her Associate Editor.

The Scientific Group categories, their coordinators and alternates are as follows:

Biology and Medical Sciences: AmandaPersaad dr_persad@yahoo.com and Yurong Lai laiyurong@yahoo.com

Chemistry: Abhijit Sarkar sarkar@mml.org and Chris Palmer Christopher.Palmer@umontana.edu

Engineering: Hui Hu huhui@iastate.edu

Physics and Math: Anil Patnaik anil@tamu.edu

Social Sciences and Humanities: Dajin Peng peng@cas.usf.edu and Louis Esparza louis.esparza@gmail.com

Message from the Chair of the Association of RONPAKU Alumni of Thailand (ARAT)
Prof. Dr. Busaba Yongsmith

We are so pleased to hear the activities of your JSPS US Alumni Association and congratulate you on issuing your newsletter. Professor Dr. Toshiomi Yoshida, the first Director of JSPS at Bangkok Office has launched the Association of RONPAKU Alumni of Thailand (ARAT) through the 3rd JSPS-NRCT (National Research Council of Thailand) Joint Meeting for RONPAKU Fellows Medal Awarding on February 4, 2005. The ARAT Board members are as follows,

Chairperson:

Dr. YONGSMITH, Busaba (Kasetsart University)

Members:

Dr. KULPRECHA, Songsri (Chulalongkorn University)

Dr. SUKHUMAVASI, Jiraporn (Rangsit University)

Dr. TOPARK-NGARM, Bubpha (Khon Kaen University)

Dr. LUMYONG, Saisamorn (Chiangmai University)

The 3rd. JSPS-NRCT Joint Meeting for RONPAKU Fellows
February 4th , 2005



During these two years, we have organized some activities:

1. Half day JSPSB Seminar on “**TSUNAMI-Lessons Learned from the Dec. 26th 2004 Tsunami and Preparation for the Future**” organized by ARAT & JSPS Bangkok Office

Date: December 20, 2005

Place: Windsor Suites, Bangkok

a) “Tsunami Disaster and Development of Disaster Prevention in Japan”

Dr. Shigeo Takahashi

Director of Tsunami Research Center

Port and Airport Research Institute,

Yokosuka, Japan.

b) “Japan – Thailand Combined Relief Effort: A Successful Medical Care Team Volunteered at Andaman Tsunami Site”

Dr. Wichai Ekataksin

Head of Liver Research

Faculty of Tropical Medicine

Mahidol University, Thailand.

- c) “Lesson Learned from 26th December 2004 Disaster”
Associate Professor Dr. Pennung Warnitchai
School of Engineering
A.I.T. Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Seminar and Workshop on

“Introduction to the Design, Fabrication and Application of Silicon Crystalline Solar Cells”

Jointly organized and hosted by ARAT, JSPS Bangkok Office and KMITL (King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology at Ladkrabang)

Date: August 24-25, 2006

Participants: 30 high school science teachers

Place: Semiconductor Laboratory, Electronics Research Center,
King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Ladkrabang, Bangkok

Contents of Workshop:

Introduction to photovoltaics, the type of solar cells, the structure and operation of silicon Solar cell and its characteristics. The standard design and fabrication process of solar cells. Solar cells system and their application. The status of Solar cells in Thailand and trend in the future. Visit Solar cells manufacturer in Thailand.

Instructors:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somkiat Supadech (KMITL)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wisut Titiroongrueng (KMITL)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surasak Niemcharoen (KMITL)

Dr. Chay Chivagate (KMUT)

Dr. Porpon (NECTEC)

Dr. Amporn Pooyai (NECTEC)

**Opening of Solar Cells Workshop at KMITL, Bangkok
August 24-25, 2006**



3. Panel Discussion on **“Thailand-Japan Cooperation Program: JSPS RONPAKU (Dissertation Ph.D.) Program on Country Development”** organized by ARAT, NRCT

Date: September 12, 2006

Place: Bangkok Convention Center, Central Plaza, Ladprao, Bangkok

We are pleased to present you some pictures of our activities. We wish your JSPS US Alumni Association great success and look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Happy New Year 2007 to all of you

Feature article from an Alumnus

A Scientist's Dream Vacation: The Galapagos Islands

Amanda S. Persad, Ph.D., DABT

About every biology textbook talks about Sir Charles Darwin and his epic voyages that lead to his theory of evolution. In 1835, Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands and his depiction of this remote destination would change the perception of these islands for generations to come. The narrative of Darwin's journey leaves you with the impression of an enchanting distant land with animals of great splendor and beauty. So, imagine my surprise when I looked out the airplane window and saw this barren flat island as the pilot told us to prepare for landing in the Galapagos Islands!

About 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, lie 19 islands and dozens of islets and volcanic rocks sprinkled in a 20,000 mile radius; these are the Galapagos Islands. Both land and the surrounding waters are protected as a national park. Once you disembark the airplane, be prepared to pay the \$100USD park fee to gain entry to the islands. The Galapagos plays host to a mere 60,000 visitors a year. There are no luxury hotels or golf courses; the appeal is the natural beauty, sharing an appreciation of the flora and fauna have survived and adapted to the rough terrain.

As you travel down the single two-lane road that connects the airport to the town on the other end of the island, the landscape changes from a barren plateau of volcanic rock to a forest of towering cacti to a lush green tropical oasis. There are strict rules about staying on marked trails and not disturbing the natural habitat. With these rules in mind, as you begin to explore the islands, you start to see that it's teeming with wildlife, lava lizards camouflaged against the volcanic rock, mounds of marine iguanas huddled to conserve heat blend in with the boulders along the seashore, brilliant red crabs, blue-footed boobies, red-breasted frigates, fearless seals, sea lions, and tortoises. And once you don your snorkel gear there's a whole underwater world to explore with schools of brightly colored fish, drifting rays, sea cucumbers, urchins and the occasional dolphin, penguin or shark.

The Ecuadorian government and the Charles Darwin Foundation are working hard to keep it that way. Before the days of Darwin, the Galapagos Islands were a haven for pirates who sustained themselves on the abundance of tortoise meat. The 1700's brought Spanish exploration, and later, English whalers who found the Galapagos Islands to be a great location for whale hunting. Because of its isolation from the mainland, at one time the Galapagos Islands were used as a prison and with increasing inhabitants, domesticated animals were introduced. All these stressors have taken a toll on the already fragile environment. The push for terrestrial and marine conservation is a very recent in the Galapagos' history. The Charles Darwin Research Station, located on Santa Cruz Island, is dedicated to preserving the 11 remaining subspecies of Galapagos giant tortoises. It is also home to Lonesome George, probably the last of survivor of a specific subspecies of giant tortoises. He was found on the small island of Pinta in 1971 and the last tortoises on that island were spotted 60 years prior. The tortoises, as Darwin noted over a century before, were different from island to island and in the course of thousands of years have adapted to the unique environment of each island. Mating trials of Lonesome George and similar subspecies of tortoises from neighboring islands have been unsuccessful. Through conservation, research and education, the Charles Darwin Research Station is trying rescuing these indigenous giant tortoises, like Lonesome George, from the brink of extinction.

If you have never visited the Galapagos, you would think conservation would be easy for these remote islands. But once you're there, you realize there is much more to this issue. Each year more tourists flock to this remote location, thus driving an increasing number of enterprising mainland Ecuadorians to move to the Galapagos. But with land designated for habitation at a premium, encroachment onto the protected land is a concern. For the people that live on these islands and the tourists that visit, resources are needed. Just about everything is imported which drives up the cost, forcing locals to consider rearing their own animals and crops. This in turn impacts the survival of the indigenous wildlife. Fishermen once profiting by appeasing the Asian demand for sea cucumbers and other marine harvests, now have to adhere to rules of marine conservation.

As much as we hope that a mate for Lonesome George surfaces, we can't help but think that we may be on the brink of losing another unique species of the Galapagos Islands. A trip to the Galapagos provides rare insight to nature's ability to adapt and survive, and a reality check on how easy it is for a species to be lost forever.



Seal posing for the camera.



Galapagos Giant Tortoise at the Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island

An Alumnus Published a Paper in *Science* and Received Nano 50 Awards

Yury Gogotsi, professor of materials science and engineering and director of the A.J. Drexel Nanotechnology Institute, Drexel University (JSPS Fellow 1992-93, Tokyo Institute of Technology) published an article titled "Anomalous Increase in Carbon Capacitance at Pore Sizes Less Than 1 Nanometer" in the September 22, 2006, issue of *Science* magazine. This publication received unsolicited coverage worldwide. Gogotsi's Carbide-Derived Carbon has been named a winner in the second annual *Nanotech Briefs: Nano 50 Awards* in the Technology category. Gogotsi himself received another *Nano 50 Award* in the Innovator category. Presented by *Nanotech Briefs* magazine (the monthly digital publication from the publishers of *NASA Tech Briefs*), the Nano 50 recognizes the top 50 technologies, products, and innovators that have significantly impacted, or are expected to impact, the state of the art in nanotechnology. The winners of the Nano 50 awards are the "best of the best" - the innovative people and designs that will move nanotechnology to key mainstream markets.

An Alumnus Published a Paper in *Science* about Malaria and HIV

HIV and malaria: when elephants flirt

HIV/AIDS and malaria continue to be two "elephants" of public health challenges. There are 40 million people infected with HIV with an annual mortality of three millions. Moreover, there are over 500 million clinical malaria infections every year with more than a million deaths. Both infections are concentrated and overlapping in sub-Saharan Africa. The sheer scale of the two diseases guarantees that any clash between these two elephants is likely to yield to considerable public health consequences.

Two parallel threads of scientific development have fueled a speculation of synergy between the two diseases. The first was a characterization of the relationship between the amount of HIV virus in the blood and the HIV transmission probability per sex act. It was found that with each factor of ten increases in the concentration of the virus in the blood, the transmission probability increases by a factor of two and half. The second thread of development was a characterization of the biological interaction between HIV and malaria. It was found that HIV infected persons are twice as likely to acquire malaria infection by virtue of their weakened immune system. More

of consequence, it was discovered that when an HIV infected person acquires malaria, the number of HIV viruses in his or her blood increases by a factor of seven for six to eight weeks. The underlying mechanism of this increase is that upon malaria infection, the human body produces billions of immune cells to overcome malaria devastation of red blood cells, but some of these cells are precisely the target cells that the HIV virus attacks and use as “weapon factories” to produce more viruses.

These scientific findings suggest a vicious cycle of interaction between the two diseases. HIV infection facilitates malaria acquisition. In turn, the immune reaction against malaria makes dually infected persons twice as infectious for HIV. Therefore, HIV fuels malaria and malaria fuels HIV. Thus, we asked the question: how many excess HIV and malaria infections do this vicious cycle entails? To address this question we went to Kisumu, Kenya, a district of about half a million people and synthesized the available biological, behavioral, and demographic data in this district into a mathematical model to estimate the impact of HIV and malaria on one another.

We found that 5% of all HIV infections in Kisumu are attributed to the higher HIV infectiousness of malaria-infected HIV patients. This translated into 8,500 HIV infections since 1980. Moreover, we found that 10% of adult malaria episodes are attributed to the higher susceptibility of HIV persons to malaria. This translated into almost one million excess malaria infections since 1980. Lastly, we found that HIV may have played a role in the geographic expansion of malaria in Africa.

These findings suggest that HIV co-infections, such as with malaria but also with genital herpes and tuberculosis, may have played a substantial role in fueling HIV spread in sub-Saharan Africa. This finding offers a partial solution to the “African puzzle” that HIV has spread rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa though the level of sexual promiscuity in this region cannot sustain such extensive infectious spread. HIV is predominantly transmitted through sexual intercourse, but biological cofactors enhance HIV spread by increasing HIV transmission probability per sexual act.

These findings highlight how the HIV virus, by holding the immune system hostage, has opened many gates for pathological interactions with other diseases. The failure of the global public health system in dealing with the challenge of HIV/AIDS has contributed directly to the failures of the efforts of tackling other public health challenges such as malaria and tuberculosis. As long as HIV/AIDS continues to spread, it will magnify the difficulties we face with other infectious diseases and may contribute to the emergence of more lethal or drug-resistant strains of such infections.

The synergy between HIV and other diseases such as malaria provides us with more opportunities to combat HIV/AIDS by treating its co-infections with other diseases. This outcome highlights the fact that global public health challenges require comprehensive and multi-pronged approaches to dealing with them. Current efforts that focus on single infection at a time may be losing substantial rewards of dealing synergistically and concurrently with multiple infectious diseases.

Reference: L.J. Abu-Raddad, P. Patnaik, and J.G. Kublin (2006) *Dual infection with HIV and malaria fuels the spread of both diseases in sub-Saharan Africa*. Science 314: 1603-1606. PMID: 17158329.

The findings of this paper has been widely covered in national and international mass and print media through many interviews such as with the Associated Press, Reuters, New York Times, Economist, BBC, Aljazeera International, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and German Public Radio.

Laith Abu-Raddad is currently a Research Scientist at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. He obtained his Ph.D. from Florida State University, Masters from Miami University, and B.Sc. from the University of Jordan. Before coming to Seattle, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Imperial College London and Osaka University. The stay in Japan was supported by a fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Laith Abu-Raddad can be reached at laith@scharp.org.

Updates from JSPS Alumni

Ulrich (Uli) Reinhardt

JSPS Alumnus, Ulrich (Uli) Reinhardt went back to Hokkaido University where he was a post-doc fellow in 1998-2000. From June to November of 2006 he was a Hokkaido University Visiting Professor. He worked with Professor Koji Maekawa on the biogeography of freshwater fish in Hokkaido, using mitochondrial DNA markers. Sapporo is Uli's favorite town in Japan for having lots of space, abundant parks and even pretty mountain hikes nearby. He and his wife and 7-year old son much enjoyed the excellent fresh seafood and hot springs they sorely miss in Michigan, where Uli teaches at Eastern Michigan University. Ulrich Georg Reinhardt-Segawa can be reached at <ureinhard@emich.edu>

BingFen Liu

BingFen Liu is still working at the Department of Surgery/Ophthalmology, Brigham & Women Hospital, and Harvard Medical School. She was recently promoted as an instructor in May, 2006, and received a small research stipend. In addition, she recently visited Kobe, Japan in June, 2006, where she was greeted warmly by her supervisors, co-workers, and friends who made this trip memorable for her. In addition, her current supervisor in the U.S. (Dr. Jack Liang) is looking for a new postdoc to research lens protein. If someone is interested in this position, please contact BingFen or her boss (jliang@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)

Bin Xu

Dr. Bin Xu is currently a full professor in Civil Engineering and Lotus Scholar appointed by the Hunan provincial government at the College of Civil Engineering, Hunan University, China. Hunan University was established in 1976 originally as Yuelu Academy, which was one of the four most prestigious academies in Song Dynasty.

Dr. Bin Xu received his BE and ME from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, in 1992 and 1995, respectively. Supported by the "Monbusho" Scholarship by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Government of Japan, he went to Japan in 1998 and defended his doctoral degree at Ibaraki University in 2001. Dr. Bin Xu carried out research work in the field of structural health monitoring and control as a postdoctoral fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) from April 2001 to March 2003 at Ibaraki University. Then he acted as a postdoctoral fellow sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at Ibaraki University from April 2003 to October 2003. Supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of USA, Dr. Bin Xu worked at the University of Missouri-Rolla, USA, to help the researchers there to develop distributed sensing techniques and real-time structural parameter identification methodologies from November 2003 to August 2005.

In August 2005, Dr. Bin Xu was invited to join the College of Civil Engineering at Hunan University, one of the most influential and strong civil engineering colleges in China as a full professor and the Lotus Scholar appointed by the Hunan provincial government. Moreover, Dr. Bin Xu has been invited to be a professor in the Center for Integrated Protection of Engineering Structures (CIPRES) and work for the Advanced Structural and Bridge Innovation Platform supported by the national "985 project" of China. Dr. Bin Xu is the winner of several awards, fellowships and scholarships. Dr. Bin Xu is also the Principle Investigator of a project funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). Dr. Bin Xu's main research interests include structural health monitoring, smart materials and structures, hazard mitigation and protection for engineering structures, soft computation and artificial intelligence, decentralized and localized identification and control for large-scale structural system, advanced sensing technology and damage detection strategy, development and application of advanced material for retrofit and rehabilitation of civil engineering structures.

Dr. Bin Xu was a member of the research committee on Monitoring of Bridge Vibration and its Standardization of the Committee of Structural Engineering, and is a member of the 328-research committee on health monitoring of concrete structure of Concrete Engineering Committee, Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE). He also serves as paper reviewer for several international academic journals and conferences, proposal reviewer for NSFC, and award evaluation experts for the Ministry of Education of China Central Government and the Scientific and Technological Committee of Shanghai Metropolis. With his achievements, Dr. Bin Xu has been invited to make keynote presentations by a series of international conference and famous universities in Japan, USA and China. Dr. Xu has authored or co-authored over 60 papers and is the editorial committee member or co-author of 3 books.

He is also advisor of graduate students pursuing MSc. and PhD degrees. International graduate students, postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to come here to carry out novel research. Moreover, Dr. Xu writes that if there are any possible faculty and research positions in Japan and US suitable for him, please let him know.

Dr. Bin Xu can be reach at College of Civil Engineering, Hunan University, Yuelu District, Changsha, Hunan, 410082, P.R.China, Email: binxu@hnu.cn,
http://ce.hnu.cn/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=486&Itemid=132

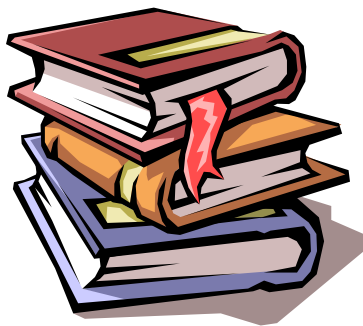
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Looking for Contributions

Please continue sending your articles/updates for our upcoming issues

Thank you



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All articles in this newsletter are solicited from various JSPS offices and US JSPS Alumni.
The editorial board is not responsible for the contents and accuracy of these articles.