

Symposium of JSPS Alumni Association "Globalization and Japan - Challenges from Social Changes" and its / Alumni General Assembly Meeting was held on November 16-17

On November 16, US-JSPS Fellows Alumni Association members gathered in Washington, DC for an alumni symposium. Then, on November 17, the alumni members held a general assembly meeting. On the first day, the symposium entitled "Globalization and Japan – Challenges from Social Changes" was held at American University. There were five speakers from Japan, one from the United Kingdom, and eight from the United States who spoke on various topics in the field of social science. There were over 80 attendees. The alumni had 30 members in attendance. The symposium was organized by Dajin Peng, South Florida University, Louis Esparza, Stony Brook University, and Akira Masaike, JSPS Washington Office, and Quansheng Zhao, American University.



Dajin and Louis are both US-JSPS Fellows Alumni Association members. They had conceived of a social science symposium at the Chicago Scientific Groups Establishment meeting back in December 2005 and made a proposal at the DC alumni leadership meeting in February 2007. Their hard work paid off as they brought this symposium to fruition. The symposium was an inspiration to the alumni members that attended.

The symposium opened with welcome remarks from Louis Goodman, Dean of School for International Service, American University; Hisashi Kato, Head of Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS; and Arup Neogi, Chair, US-JSPS Alumni Association; Dajin Peng, Symposium Organizing Committee, University of South Florida.

The first panel of the symposium was chaired by Quansheng Zhao, Symposium Organizing Committee, American University. The title of the panel was "Japanesee Foreign Policy in the context of Global Regional Dynamics". The panel included five speakers – Yoshifumi Nakai, Gakushin University; Minoru Koide, Soka University; Akihiko Kimijima, Ritsumeikan University; Yasuki Masui, Niigata University; and Philip Shetler-Jones, University of Sheffield. The symposium had a special international aspect because of these speakers from overseas.



Lunch was held at midday and all the panelists, alumni members, and the American University community attended. During lunch, keynote speeches were made by Prof. Kent Calder, Johns Hopkins University; and Minister Masafumi Ishii, Japanese Embassy. The speeches were informative and enjoyable.

After lunch, the second panel entitled "Globalization, Regionalization and the Japanese Economy" was held and chaired by Dajin Peng who also was a

speaker. The panel included five other speakers - Xiaonong Zhang, Nankai University; Ayumi Takenaka, Bryn Mawr College; Yuqing Xing, International University of Japan; Mireya Solis, American University; Wei Liu, Nankai University. In the case of a social science meeting, a discussion was followed at the end of the panel presentation. Alumni members in the audience joined in a lively discussion about the topics.

The third and last panel of the day, “Globalization and Social Changes” was chaired by Louis Edgar Esparza, Symposium Organizing Committee, Stony Brook University. Four other speakers made presentations in this session – Daishiro Nomiya, Sophia University; Kiyoteru Tsutsui, University of Michigan; Joanna Rozpedowski, University of South Florida; and Michael Evans, University of California at San Diego. Many questions followed, and the participants carried on the discussion.



After the symposium had adjourned, there was a reception. The symposium had assembled close to 90 attendees from the American University community, US-JSPS alumni, and other researchers. All these participants had a good opportunity to discuss more about the day’s topics at the reception. Many new contacts and collaborations were formed for the future.

On Saturday, Nov. 17, an alumni meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Chevy Chase. There were 30 alumni members who came to support the symposium and attend the alumni meeting. Executive Committee members, Arup Neogi, Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, and Jan Zeserson jointly presided over the meeting.

The meeting was held at 8:00 am and alumni had a chance to partake in breakfast and time for socializing during a “meishi exchange”. The meeting began with appreciation for Dajin Peng and Louis Esparza who were alumni organizers of the symposium. Each expressed their gratitude to the Alumni Association, JSPS Washington Office, and especially to Mr. Hisashi Kato from JSPS Headquarters. It was Mr. Kato’s first time to attend an alumni symposium and alumni meeting.



Later, alumni introduced themselves and posed for group photos according to their region. There were many new alumni members attending their first meeting. They were enthusiastic and inspired as they learned about previous Alumni Association activities. Afterwards, the participants divided up into Scientific Groups and discussed potential activities. There was much interest expressed for interdisciplinary collaboration. The meeting ended with announcements for Alumni Association 2008 Elections. All the members posed for a group photo and the meeting adjourned.

[Agenda]

Friday, November 16, 2007

8:30 Conference registration
Conference site: Mary Graydon Center 200, American University

9:00 Conference begins and opening remarks

Moderator: Quansheng Zhao (American University)

Welcome remarks:

Louis Goodman, Dean of School of International Service, American University

Akira Masaïke, Director, JSPS Washington Office

Dajin Peng, US-JSPS Alumni Association/University of Southern Florida

9:20 Group Photo

9:30 Panel I: “Japanese Foreign Policy in the Context of Global and Regional Dynamics”

(Time allocation for all panels: 15 minutes per presentation)

Chair: Quansheng Zhao (American University, USA)

1. Yoshifumi Nakai (Gakushuin University, Japan) (From Tokyo)
“The Koizumi Reform and Japan-China Relations”
2. Minoru Koide (Soka University, Japan) (From Tokyo)
“Changing Security Concepts? -- Japanese Attitudes toward Collective Security and Nuclear Weapons”
3. Akihiko Kimijima (Ritsumeikan University, Japan/American University)
“Japan's contribution to global constitutionalism”
4. Yasuki Masui (Niigata University, Japan) (From Niigata, Japan)
“History Problem and Sino-Japan Relations: An Interpretation about 1972's Joint Communique between the Government of Japan and China”
5. Philip Shetler-Jones (University of Sheffield) (From Sheffield, UK)
“The effects of Globalization on Japan’s Security policy”
6. Quansheng Zhao (American University)
“China’s view of U.S. - Japan Security Alliance”

11:00 Discussion

11:45 Session Adjourns

12:00 Lunch for panelists and AU's Asian Study Community hosted by the Center for Asian Studies of American University
Location: Mary Graydon Center 1st floor, American University

12:30 Keynote Speech

Kent Calder (Johns Hopkins University - SAIS)
"Japan and East Asian Community"

Masafumi Ishii (Minister, Japanese Embassy) -- to be confirmed
"Japan and Globalization"

Moderator: Quansheng Zhao

14:00 Panel II: "Globalization, Regionalization and the Japanese Economy"

Chair: Dajin Peng (University of Southern Florida, USA)

1. Mathias Kirchmer (IDS Scheer Global) (From Birwyn, Pennsylvania)
"Business Process Excellence and Globalization: Improving Performance in Japan, USA, and Other Countries"
2. Dajin Peng (University of South Florida) and Xiaonong Zhang (Nankai University), Zhang (from Tampa, Florida, visiting professor at the University of South Florida).
"A Comparative Study of Business Networks in China and Japan Under Globalization"
3. Ayumi Takenaka (Bryn Mawr College) (From Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania)
"Re-Migration of Immigrants and Its Consequences for Japan"
4. Yuqing Xing (International University of Japan) (from Niigata, Japan)
"Sino-Japanese Relations: the Dimension of Trade and FDI"
5. Mireya Solís (American University)
"Japan's Competitive FTA Strategy: Implications for East Asian Regionalism"
6. Wei Liu (Nankai University, China/American University)
"Impact of International Insurance Regulation on East Asian Insurance Market"

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

16:15 Panel III: "Globalization and Social Changes"

Chair: Louis Edgar Esparza (State University of New York)

1. Daishiro Nomiya (Sophia University) (From Tokyo)
"Active Commitment by Obligation? Japanese Global Peace Demonstrators in Comparative Perspective"

2. Kiyoteru Tsutsui (University of Michigan) (From Ann Arbor, Michigan)
“Rights Make Might: Global Human Rights and Minority Social Movements in Japan”.
3. Louis Edgar Esparza (State University of New York) (From Albany, New York)
“Identity Formation in the World Trade Organization: Movements, Farm Subsidies, & Japan”
4. Joanna Rozpedowski (University of South Florida, from Tampa, Florida), “Metapolitics of Gender: Conceptual Contestability and Cultural Variance of Power - Foucault, Feminism, and Japan's Equal Employment Opportunity Law.”
5. Michael Evans (University of California at San Diego) (From San Diego)
“Toward a Synthesis of Perspectives”

17:30 Discussion

18:00 Session Adjourns

18:30 Reception for panelists hosted by JSPS and American University (location TBA)

20:30 Conference Adjourns