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Dear Indian JSPS Alumni members,
I am really happy that our new editorial board is coming up with next issue of our Newsletter “Concord” as our 2013 Bhubaneswar seminar issue. I am sure that our new editorial team headed by Dr. R. S. Rajeev as the Chief Editor, and the sub editors Dr. Tadisetty and Dr. Bhuvan will definitely take our newsletter to next level by their creative minds.
I request all our members to provide articles and information to our editorial board, which you think beneficial to our alumni .

My best wishes are always with our editorial team!!!!
Yours
Sakthi Kumar

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Message from Dr. Chadaram Sivaji—Counselor for Science and Technology Embassy of India, Tokyo

I am delighted to know that IJSPSAA is bringing out a newsletter on its activities and information sharing among Indian and Japanese S&T Ecosystems. The IJSPSAA is actively pursuing to build more effective partnerships between Indian and Japanese scientists through its annual meetings held in India. I noticed that these meetings are attended by eminent scientists from both sides to discuss on their collaborative subjects. Last year the association has organized India Japan seminar to commemorate the 60 years of diplomatic relationships between two countries. The IJSPSAA under the active Chairmanship of Prof. Sakthi Kumar would go a long way in building bridges between India and Japan in the field of science and technology. I wish the newsletter will contribute towards more information exchanges between scientists, students and policy makers.

I appreciated all the attendees, including the outstanding scientists from Japan and India, for setting aside time to participate in this event and use it as an opportunity to strengthen scientific collaboration between our two countries.

When I was preparing for this symposium at my office in Tokyo, I felt that IJAA must be a very energetic association. In attending the symposium, I found that my expectation couldn’t have been more correct. The achievement of such a well-balanced symposium owes much to the volume of its attendance and quality of its program. I was happy to see the attendees taking initiative and enjoying their participation in it. The chair and executive other members did a superb job of planning, preparing and conducting the symposium. I was also thrilled to see younger researchers and students lending their support and attending the poster.

Contd. in Page 6

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Message from Mr. Takeshi Kamei, Head, Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS

I was happy to participate in IJAA’s symposium held in Bhubaneswar.

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From the Editorial Board...

With great pleasure and satisfaction we are releasing the fourth volume of Concord, after a gap of more than three years. Concord is a passion for all IJAA members. However, due to preoccupations of the members , it could not be published regularly though it cannot be considered as an excuse. The fourth issue is a humble attempt to revive Concord, to make it regular and more frequent. We are sure that with the support of all IJAA members it is not a difficult task.

This time, more emphasis is given to the recently concluded EEMR-2013 and fourth UAA meeting at Bhubaneswar as it was a memorable event for all delegates. We have attempted to cover the event as much as possible. This issue also covers the activities of regional chapters of the association and details about the new Executive Committee.

What we need to plan now is to make Concord a regular newsletter. We welcome any form of creativity from our members—be it research article, poem, photograph, painting, what not. We urge all our members to actively contribute to Concord. The career achievements, publications, research findings etc. of the members can be communicated to us so that all such information will find a place in Concord This way, we can enrich Concord, which will eventually become a souvenir of our activities in future.

We are sure that this will not be a difficult task for us because we are the ones who made IJAA the most vibrant and active Alumni Association of JSPS. Let Concord be the most popular newsletter among all JSPS Alumni Associations!

-For Editorial Committee, Rajeev, Bhuvaneswaran and Srinivasulu Tadisetty

Contd. in Page 6
Bhubaneswar stressed the necessity of networking in scientific research and pointed out that the platform provided by IJAA and JSPS through such Conferences is ideal for collaboration and interaction. In his inaugural address, Prof. Madhusudan Chakraborty, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, lauded the organizers for bringing up energy, environment, health and materials research as the focal theme of the Conference which are the most important concerns of the 21st century and are inter-related too. Novel materials are required for addressing the challenges ahead for creating better, cleaner and healthier environment through proper management of energy. He wished that by the active and fruitful interaction of Indian and Japanese researchers through the seminars organized by IJAA, both India and Japan will be well-prepared for facing any challenge in energy, environment, health and materials.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. B. K. Mishra, Director, IMMT, EEMR-2013 a grand success

The recently concluded International Conference on “Frontiers in Energy, Environment, Health and Materials Research (EEMR - 2013)” during August 12-13, 2013, at CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar, India will be remembered as one of the best conferences organized by Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJAA). The conference was organized by IJAA in collaboration with JSPS, CSIR and IMMT-Bhubaneswar. All the delegates praised the warmth hospitality of the local organizing committee and the well structured sessions where talks were delivered by eminent scientists from both Japan and India.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Madhusudan Chakraborty, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, stressed the need for finding out the applications of these nanomaterials for the benefit of the society to exploit their right potential.

Low cost alternatives are required to meet energy demand - Prof. Sumio Iijima

Prof. Sumio Iijima, well known for his original contributions towards the research on carbon nanotubes, mentioned that in order to meet the growing demands of energy, low cost alternatives are required. He was delivering the key note address in the recently concluded National Conference on Frontiers in Energy, Environment, Health and Materials Research (EEMR - 2013). Prof. Iijima gave a detailed description on the various aspects of research on carbon nanomaterials including carbon nanotube and carbon nanohorns. According to him, carbon nanohorns are a potential material for energy devices, drug delivery system and others. In order to tap the potential of such nanomaterials, research is required to produce them in abundance meeting the quality requirements. He also touched upon various characterization methods of carbon nanomaterials such as TEM, EELS and Raman Spectroscopy. He stressed the need for finding out the applications of these nanomaterials for the benefit of the society to exploit their right potential.
opening remarks, Prof. (Dr.) Sakthi Kumar highlighted the activities of IJAA in promoting scientific collaboration between India and Japan. He informed that a series of Seminars and Conferences have been organized by the Association in the past and even the talk delivered by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, when he visited Japan, mentioned the Indo-Japan research collaboration. He thanked the JSPS and the Japanese delegates for their continuing support for the Conference.

Mr. Takeshi Kamei, Head Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS Headquarters lauded the efforts of the IJAA in organizing such conferences in a series and commented that IJAA is one of the most active and vibrant alumni associations of JSPS. He extended all possible supports of JSPS for IJAA in future also. In his speech, Mr. Shinchi Higuchi, First Secretary, Science and Technology, Japan Embassy, India, wished success for the conference. He expressed happiness that the IJAA seminars have become an important platform for exchange of ideas between Indian and Japanese researchers.

Dr. Bimal P. Singh, Organizing Secretary delivered vote of thanks.

The Conference was attended by more than 180 participants from both India and Japan including researchers from IITs, NITs and various other research laboratories both in India and Japan.

EEMR-2013...(contd. from Page 3)

JSPS will promote exchange of Indian and Japanese researchers—Mr. Takeshi Kamei

JSPS will help in promoting exchange of more researchers between India and Japan, said Mr. Takeshi Kamei, Head, Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS Headquarters, during the panel discussion in the recently concluded IJAA Seminar. He expressed happiness over the increased number of participants from both India and Japan during the Conference.

The panel discussion exchanged ideas among panel members and delegates regarding promotion of research, the research objectives for the future and the energy issues and solutions for a better future.

The panel discussion exchanged ideas among panel members and delegates regarding promotion of research, the research objectives for the future and the energy issues and solutions for a better future. Prof. B.K. Misra, Director, IMMT Bhubaneswar, called upon the need to create a research hub in India where the research objectives of the country for the immediate future can be formulated and a focused research to solve the energy crisis can be initiated. Prof. Harinarayan, Director, GERMI, Gandhinagar cautioned that there is acute shortage of energy in the country and the next revolution in India, after green and white revolutions will be energy revolution.

Prof. Iijima forecasted big future for Indian research and complemented the way by which research and research institutions in India are progressing. He predicted that brilliant youngsters will contribute a lot in the longer term. He also pointed out that there are a large number of lady scientists in India whereas in Japan, their numbers are less. Dr. Yoshio Sakka, Director, Nano Ceramic Research Centre, NIMS commented that while foreign students in Japan show great interest in pursuing PhD programmes, Japanese students are not showing the same level of interest. He appreciated the hardworking of Indian students which will help them in acquiring better knowledge and leading positions in future. He also talked about the academic system in NIMS. Dr. Masayuki Takeuchi of NIMS put forward the idea of initiating a smart city project where through research on energy, water purification etc., a smart city can be created. He complimented the organizers for selecting such an excellent theme for this year’s Conference.

Prof. Toru Maekawa, Director, Bio-nano Electronics Research Centre, Toyo University, Japan told that Japanese are coping up with the aftermaths of Fukushima disaster and are now focusing more on spiritual aspects rather than materials.
Panel discussion...(contd. from Page 4)

He made the comment that Indian traffic system is very sophisticated and appreciated its chaotic nature. He also told that the youngsters in India are promising which will benefit the nation in the future. Mr. Shinchi Higuchi, First Secretary, Science and Technology, Japan Embassy-India lauded the initiative of Indian scientists taking up social problems. He exhorted the need for both human and research exchange programmes between India and Japan.

Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar, Chairman, IJAA expressed happiness over the presence of many students in the Conference and informed the audience that one of the major objectives of IJAA Conferences is to give information to Indian students on research opportunities in Japan. That is why the Seminars are conducted in different locations to widen the outreach. Japan is actively searching for Indian students who can contribute to Japanese research and at the same time getting benefited to avail world class research facilities in Japan. Now-a-days, many Japanese universities are conducting courses in English so that language needs not be a barrier. He appreciated the number of Japanese University booths in Conference which will help Indian students to secure academic positions in Japan. He urged all the IJAA members to disseminate information on research opportunities in Japan to their friends and colleagues.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Bimal P. Singh, Organizing Secretary, EEMR-2013 thanked all the delegates for their active participation and contribution to make the Conference a grand success. Delegates also thanked Dr. Singh for organizing such a wonderful Conference.

EEMR-2013, an ideal meeting place for Indian and Japanese researchers

IJAA was instrumental this time too to make a perfect blend of Indian and Japanese researchers in its annual alumni meet. Association itself is raising the bar for the quality of the meeting each time. In EEMR at Bhubaneswar, a host of leading Indian and Japanese researchers presented their research ideas and interacted with the students, delegates and IJAA members. The keynote address was given by Prof. Sumio Iijima, world famous for the research on carbon nanotube, Dr. Mimiru Takahashi, President, Nagoya Institute of Technology and Dr. G. Sundararajan, Director, ARCI Hyderabad. Prof. Toru Maekawa, Director, Bio-nano Research Centre, Toyo University, Dr. Yoshio Sakka, Director, Nanoceramic Research Centre, NIMS, Prof. Harinarayan, Director, GERMI, Gandhinagar, and Dr. Masayuki Takeuchi, NIMS were given the plenary talks. Invited talks included those by Prof. T. Pradeep, DST Unit of Nanoscience, IIT, Madras, Prof. B.K. Mishra, Director, IMMT, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Tetsuo Uchikoshi, NIMS and Prof. Noriyuki Dokyu, Toyo University.

One of the major attractions of the Conference was the booths by Japanese universities. Similar to previous years, this time too, a large number of Japanese universities, including Tokyo University, Toyo University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, NIMS etc. put their booths and give information regarding their academic facilities to the students and delegates. Tokyo University, Toyo University and Ritsumeikan University were introduced by their representatives. A new feature of this year’s Conference was the introduction of Japanese companies. JEOL, Hitachi, Shimadzu and Horiba were given introduction during the Conference. Odissi Dance, as part of the cultural programme, was a feast to the eyes for the delegates.
It was a moment of joy and pride for IJAA South Chapter when Prof. Sumio Iijima, who was on a short trip to India, accepted their invitation for a felicitation and talk at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 4th March 2013.

On behalf of Indian JSPS Alumni Association (South Chapter) Dr. C. P. Sharma, Head, Biomedical Technology Wing felicitated Prof. Sumio Iijima by offering the traditional Ponnada. Later Prof. Iijima delivered his lecture on Carbon Nanotubes and thereafter interacted with students and scientists of various disciplines. Dr. P.V. Mohanan, Chairman, IJAA (South Chapter), Dr. Annie John, Dr. Maya Nandakumar and Dr. HK. Varma spoke on the occasion.

**Prof. Sakthi is the resource person for all JSPS Alumni Associations**

IJAA can be proud that Chairman, Prof. Sakthi Kumar is the resource person for introducing the activities of all JSPS Alumni Associations world over to the new JSPS fellows. Prof. Sakthi’s responsibilities include providing information regarding the activities of all the JSPS Alumni Associations to the new JSPS fellows, 7-8 times every year. Prof. Sakthi will encourage the JSPS fellows to join their respective Alumni Associations once their fellowship in Japan is over. He will also assist in starting new associations. It is a recognition for IJAA too by JSPS by selecting Prof. Sakthi for this coveted job.

Prof. Sakthi Kumar is working as Co Director (International Affairs) in Bio Nano Electronics Research Centre and Professor of Graduate School of Interdisciplinary New Science, Toyo University, Japan. He worked as JSPS post doctoral fellow in Toyo University (2001-2003). He is having 7 patents wrote 4 book chapters and published 92 research papers in International Journals and gave many invited talks in international seminars. He has received Asian Excellence Award (2012) from Society of polymer science, Japan. He has produced 13 Ph. D.’s till now.

**Message from Mr. Takeshi Kamei ...(contd. from Page 2)**

session. They asked many questions and offered comments to the Japanese lecturers. They even gave me briefings on their activities in ways that bridged my lack of knowledge on their specific research fields. I was impressed by the attendance of IJAA family members, who added an intimate dimension to the atmosphere of the cultural program. I noticed that all the IJAA members look forward to and enjoy these annual assemblies. I join them in looking forward to next year’s high-level event.

After returning to Japan from the symposium, I participated in an orientation session for the newly arriving overseas researchers under JSPS’s postdoctoral fellowship program. In the past, I’m sure that readers of Concord have attended this orientation. This time, I saw many Indian participants enjoying it. They appeared excited when talking with Dr. Sakthi Kumar, who gave a presentation on JSPS alumni program as a representative of all the alumni associations. I was really pleased to see Indian researchers of various generations being so closely associated with Japan. At the reception following the orientation, the Indian fellows got together and discussed their research, careers and life in both Japan and India.

From these things I witnessed and experienced, I am certain that academic collaboration and networking between India and Japan will continue to grow and thrive. I would like to ask the Indian alumni members to take advantage of what you learned from your experience in Japan to create an ever-more vibrant research environment in your home country while raising up the next generation of young researchers. As head of JSPS’s Fellows Plaza and Overseas Fellowship Division, I pledge the support of my young staff in advancing continuous collaboration between Indian researchers and your Japanese colleagues.
New executive committee for 2013-2017

The new Executive Committee for 2013-2017 was selected during the Bhubaneswar Conference. Following are the Executive Committee members:

Chairman - Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar
Vice Chairman - Dr. Pravin D. Kunte
General Secretary - Dr. P.V. Mohanan
Joint Secretaries - (1) Dr. Annie John (2) Dr. Bimal P. Singh
Treasurer - Dr. Kailash Manda
Chief Editor - Dr. R. S. Rajeev

Sub Editors - (1) Dr. Bhuva-neshwaran (2) Dr. Srinivasulu Tadisetty

Conveners (1) - Dr. Kamini Numbi (From South Chapter) (2) - Dr. Sanjay Dhakate (From North Chapter) (3) - Dr. Rajesh Biniwale (From West Chapter) (4) - Dr. R.N. Basu (From East Chapter)

North Chapter - To be constituted - Discussion is going on...

(No consensus emerged during the meeting – Referred for further discussion under Dr. Sanjay Dhakate – Former Chairman North Chapter)

West Chapter - To be constituted - Discussion is going on...

(No consensus emerged during the meeting – Referred for further discussion under Dr. Rajesh Biniwale – Former Gen. Sec. West Chapter)

South Chapter - Chairman - Dr. C. Gurumoorthy
Gen. Sec. - Dr. Maya Nandakumar
Convener (1) - Dr. T. V. C. Sharma (2) - Dr. Darshan

East Chapter - Chairman - Dr. Sankar Bose
Gen Secretary - Prof. Chacko Jacob
Convener (1) - Dr. Utpal Borah (2) - Dr. Alakananda Hajra

Some of the major decisions taken by the Association during the General Body Meeting are:

1. Registration of UJA in India. General Secretary started the process.
2. Membership fees: Rs. 5000 (Life membership) by all members and an additional Rs. 10,000 from Bridge Fellows.
3. Part of the membership fee will be used to support members' travel to attend the seminar (about 50%). Executive members also will get only 50% of support. Accommodation will be provided to all members including executive members in guest houses.
4. The money which main executive committee is providing to the chapter for the support of members travel should be reimbursed from the fund generated by the local committee after each seminar to enable the executive committee to provide the same fund to the next chapter for the consecutive year.

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IJAA seminar news in JSPS Quarterly

Indian JSPS Alumni Association Holds Celebrative Symposium in Japan

On 7-9 December, the Indian JSPS Alumni Association (UJA) teamed up with Bio-Nano Electronics Research Centre (BNERC) of Toyo University to host a symposium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. As the venue for the event, Toyo University provided its Inner Tokyo Memorial Hall, accommodating some 450 people from the two countries over the symposium’s two days.

Having been organized in a sequel to UJA’s 3rd Annual Symposium, held in Nagpur City, Maharashtra State, the symposium was themed “Advanced Science and Technology.” In its opening ceremony, JSPS executive director Dr. Rajesh Tewar and Ms. Otsuka Grandal Wadona, Ambassador of India, Japan, offered remarks, followed by a keynote address from Dr. Makoto Kubo, 2008 Nobel laureate in physics, and Dr. B. Yoshinari, principal advisor to the government of India. Among other talks, a keynote address and 15 lectures were delivered. The participants listened to their with piped music. In parallel with the symposium, young members carried out a poster session in front of their displays they energetically fielded questions from the participants.

Closing remarks were delivered by UJA chair and BNERC professor Dr. D. Subba Kumar and University of Kyushu vice chancellor Dr. A. Azuma. Acknowledging the contributions of the presenters, the participating researchers gathered together in a way that satisfied the strong value they placed on India-Japan exchange.

Reproduction of the article published in JSPS Quarterly on the IJAA seminar held in Tokyo, organized in collaboration with Bio-Nano Electronics Research Centre (BNERC) of Toyo University to celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
Scientific contributions of IJAA members (in 2013)

Dr. R.S.Bhuvaneswarn


Dr. Utpal Bora:


Dr. C.D. Madhusoodana


Dr. C.Gurumoorthy


Dr. R.Bhatta


Scientific contributions ...(contd. from Page 8)

...and Facile Liquid Whistle Hydrodynamic Cavitational Reactor to Produce Submicron Multiple Emulsions", American Institute of Chemical Engineering Journal (AIChEJ), 59(1), 155-167, 2013.


Dr. Jayashankar De.


Our Bridge Fellows

2013
Dr. Divya Prakash, Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh.
Dr. Utpal Bora - Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Assam
Dr. Annie John - Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

2012
Dr. P. V. Mohanan - Sree Chitra Research Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
Dr. Bhushan Choudhury - North Maharashtra University, Maharashtra.

Dr. Bimal P. Singh – CSIR Institute, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

2011
Dr. Sanjay Dhakate – NPL, New Delhi
Dr. Srinivasulu Tadisetty- VCE, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Dr. Sanjib K. Panda – Utkal University, Orissa.

2010
Dr. Dilip Kumar Chand – Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Tamil Nadu
Dr. Rajesh Biniwale – NEERI, Nagpur,Maharashtra.
Dr. Tharmalingam Puniyamoorthy- IIT Guwahati

2009
Dr. Thomas Kurian, CUSAT, Cochin, Kerala.
Dr. Kamini Numbi, CLRI, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

IJAA-Toyohashi University Special Fellowship
Prof. Prem Bisht, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has been awarded the Special Fellowship provided to IJAA by Electronics-Inspired Interdisciplinary Research Institute, Toyohashi University of Technology, Aichi, Japan in 2012.

Congratulations, Prof. Bisht.

(To know more about such fellowships, please contact IJAA secretariat)
Achievements of our members

IJAA congratulates all our members for their splendid achievements last year.

Dr. C.D. Madhusoodana received GN Agrawal Memorial award from Indian Ceramic Society for lifetime achievement in Glass & Ceramics.

Dr. C. Gurumoorthy is appointed as the Visiting Faculty as an International Expert in Nuclear Energy as part of the Human Resources Development Initiative at Ibaraki National College of Technology, Ibaraki, Japan since January 2013.

Dr. C.D. Madhusoodana elected as Vice Chairman, Indian Ceramic Society, Bangalore Chapter and Honorary Joint Secretary Indian Ceramic Society, Kolkata.

Dr. Jayashankar De is appointed as the Head, Dept. of Biotechnology, UNESCO Chair-LSIPEC, Armenia.

Dr. PV. Mohanan is nominated as a Visiting Researcher at the BioNano Electronics Research Station, Toyo University from 2013 onwards.

Dr. PV. Mohanan is nominated as a Visiting Professor of the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary New Science, Toyo University from 2013 April onwards.

IJAA joint Secretary, Prof. Dr. Annie John, Scientist-F, BMT Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum, receiving the “ICMR Kshanika Oration Award – 2010” from Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare - Shri Gulab Nabi Azad - on September 24th, 2013 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This prize (Citation & Cash award of Rs. 20,000/-) has been awarded for her meritorious work carried out in Biomedical Research. Congratulations, Dr. John!