

Concord

An Indian JSPS Alumni Association Newsletter

No 3, May 2010

Our website: <http://www.indianjpsalumni.org>



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About Concord

Concord is a semi-annual newsletter from the Indian JSPS Alumni Association (IJSPSAA) aimed at informing the audience about the activities carried out by its members. The contents published here could be of interest to all those interested in knowing study and research opportunities in Japan. Please write to the editorial board for contributions to the forthcoming issues: S.V.R.K. Prabhakar (Email: sivapuram.prabhakar@gmail.com); S.P. Singh (Email: satyapsingh@yahoo.com); & T. Srinivasulu (Email: tadisetty_s@yahoo.co.in).

Visit www.indianjpsalumni.org for more details

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

Greetings! One of my learned colleagues raised an interesting question on the other day, why do we form associations, networks, and groups? I found that the answer is not easy. One may put that we form associations and groups since we are humans and that humans are social beings (somebody has defined society and social means living in interactive groups?). So, we JSPS alumni in India also have formed an association. So what? There is a reason why we formed an association!



Alumni associations provide a good opportunity for interaction. For instance, count the number of emails we exchanged over the past one year, imagine how soon we have been able to know about incredible research the other JSPS alumni are doing in the remotest corner, and that we have a website and newsletter that keeps us informed. Can you imagine all these happening in absence of an association? Hell not!

Collective work in any association will bring its members together. A common cause is the need of the hour. Our members have recently come up with an idea of having annual seminar and get together sorts for exchanging innovation among us. A great idea doesn't sit in shelves for long. Soon the idea turned into action and we have a seminar and get together coming up in May (refer to the advertisement in this newsletter). So, please do attend this seminar and make it a Associations are nothing but a group of 'us' who need to act. It is time to get out and do something useful for those who are looking forward to us, time to prove that we have a cause to fulfill.

Best wishes,

Prabhakar with Singh & Srinivasulu
Editorial Board, CONCORD

Foreword from the Chairman

Dear friends,

I am very happy to foreword our seminar issue of "Concord".

So far, the year 2010 has been a great year for our Association, new Executive Committee took charge of the Association and we are conducting the first seminar and get together, which is like a dream come true. For this I would like to thank JSPS head office for their wholehearted support.



The seminar and get together entitled 'Recent Advances and Future Directions in Science and Technology' will be organized in New Delhi on May 10th and 11th 2010. This has been possible due to the incessant support received from all our members and especially those in Delhi. Though all our Delhi alumni members are behind the organization of this first seminar; I would like to mention the valuable and wholehearted efforts by Dr. Sanjay Dhakate. I convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Dhakate and all other members.

JSPS has announced the new "Bridge Fellowship" program from 2009 onwards. Under this program, it is possible to nominate two of our members. I hope that our members will utilize this great opportunity in meeting their professional goals.

From now onwards, Concord will be printed in hard-copy too, as per the suggestion of Dr. Kailash, the earlier Editor-In-Chief. Our new Editorial Board with Dr. Prabhakar, Dr. Singh and Dr. Srinivasulu took it as their mission in producing a great Concord Issue.

I do hope and wish that the seminar and get together would be a successful one and that it will boost our collective morale and bondage that enable us to take our activities to a greater level.

Yours
Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar
Chairman
Indian JSPS Alumni Association

Message from Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President, JSPS

I am very pleased to send a message to the first symposium organized by Indian JSPS Alumni Associations and JSPS entitled "Recent Advances and Future Directions in Science and Technology".



Since its inauguration in 2006, I understand that Indian JSPS Alumni Association has been working hard to strengthen network between Indian and Japanese researchers. As you may know, JSPS has invited many researchers from all over the world under the various fellowship programs. India is one of the top countries sending researchers under the JSPS fellowship program. Each year we have many Indian researchers who come to Japan and then return home to continue their research activities at their universities and institutions in India. For such returning fellows, JSPS has established alumni associations in some countries including India to sustain and expand the researchers' network between Japan and their countries.

Our ultimate aim is not just to establish alumni associations overseas, but more importantly support their activities. These alumni associations provide their members with information on Japan and JSPS's latest initiatives, in addition to organizing symposiums and other events. The members also convey their own experiences in Japan to the next generation of younger researchers, thus increasing the number of researchers from their countries who wish to do research in Japan in the future. This creates a good cycle of scientific interaction between their countries and Japan.

From these points of view, I believe, the first Indian JSPS Alumni Association's symposium is a landmark event in the history of scientific exchange between our two countries. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our profound appreciation to Prof. Kumar and other Board members of the JSPS Indian Alumni Association who devoted efforts that have enabled holding this symposium. I sincerely hope that this symposium will be fruitful and successful.

I look forward to ever-closer friendship and exchange between our two countries.

Prof. Motoyuki Ono
President, JSPS

Message from Mr Hisashi Kato, Head, Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS

I am very pleased to send my message to the newsletter of Indian JSPS Alumni Association on behalf of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.



JSPS invites many researchers to Japan from other countries. Especially under “JSPS Post-doctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers Program”, about 500 new fellowships are awarded every year. India is the best or second-best sending country under this fellowship program. Each year has seen an increase in the number of Indian researchers who come to Japan and then returning home to continue their research activities at universities and other Indian institutions.

For such returning fellows, JSPS alumni associations are established to conduct activities that sustain and expand exchange between the former fellows and their colleagues in Japan’s scientific community. Up

to now, such alumni associations have been established in Germany, the UK, France, the US, Sweden, Kenya, Egypt and Korea. Among their activities, these alumni associations provide their members and other interested scientists with scientific information in Japan and JSPS’s latest activities, in addition to organizing symposia co-hosted by JSPS and other events.

I would like to extend my sincere respect for your energetic activities since the establishment in 2006 that include the issuance of the excellent newsletter entitled ‘CONCORD’. In addition, in my opinion, it is very significant that you, the members of this alumni association in India, are conveying your own Japanese experiences to the next generation of younger researchers. By doing so, I am very pleased to say that the number of Indian scientists wishing to visit Japan is growing. JSPS believes it is necessary to expand further researcher networks like yours.

Finally, I look forward to ever-closer friendship and scientific exchange between our two countries by further expansion of the activities of Indian JSPS Alumni Association.

Hisashi Kato

Head, Overseas Fellowship Division, JSPS



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Professor C.N.R. RAO, F.R.S
*National Research Professor
and
Honorary President*

March 17, 2010

MESSAGE

I am delighted that the Indian JSPS Alumni Association is holding its first seminar on Recent advances and future directions in science and technology on May 10, 2010 in Delhi.

I am sure that the members from India and Japan will have fruitful discussions on the subject to strengthen our collaborative programmes on science and technology between the two countries.

I extend my warm greetings to all the participants of the seminar.



(C.N.R. Rao)
National Research Professor
and

Linus Pauling Research Professor

New Indian JSPS Bridge Fellows

Dr. (Mrs.) Numbi R.

Kamini is a scientist at Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, India and holds patents in the field of biotechnology for waste utilization. She was STA Fellow during June 1999 to May 2001. She maintained a good relationship with her host professor and developed meaningful collaborative work with other Professors in Japan after completing her STA fellowship. As a result, she could publish the collaborative work in high-impact journals. She also received a collaborative project under India – Japan cooperative science program. She has been very active in developing JSPS Alumni activities in her region.



Prof. Thomas Kurian

specializes in polymer science and rubber technology and is a professor at Cochin University. He was JSPS fellow at Yamagata University during Nov. 2001 to Nov. 2003. Prof. T. Kurian has invited a group of 5 students from Yamagata University for interaction and exchange of ideas at Cochin University which has set forth the collaboration between both the universities. He has invited professors from various Japanese Universities and developed several collaborative projects. He has been very active in promoting JSPS Alumni Association activities in his region.



Obituary

The Passing of the Japanese Rocketeer: Obituary to Mr. Yoji Shibato

Dr. Randeep Rakwal, NIAIST, Tsukuba, Japan

The rocket is meant to go up, very high in space, and there is nothing that can stop it from blasting its way upwards towards new horizons, taking with it our dreams for the future of mankind. What comes goes and that holds true for all things living and breathing on this planet, including us mortals who have since the eons of time shaped the destiny of the world in

which we are born, grow, and die. It is during this chapter in the book of life without a preface, page numbers or glossary, we come across a few pulsating, energetic humans who shine so brightly as the light of the exploding supernovas in the universe, and leave their mark in the age of their existence. Such was a man who happened by pure chance to



be my wife's father, and who lived and died to be known as The Rocketeer of Japan, Mr. Yoji Shibato, in the spring of the year 2008 (April 15th; 17:50) at Tsukuba Science City, Ibaraki, Japan. During the time I had known him, seen him, talked to him, listened to him, and finally at the funeral ceremony on the 19th of April, when his senior and mentor T Godai (ex-NASDA executive vice-president) who termed him the Japanese RocketMan, during his eulogy, and the executive director of JAXA, along with one of his close friend (T. Nakano) from JAMSS, who gave heartfelt and tearful eulogies, is when I realized more than ever what he had been for the Modern Day Japan "The Energy, Vitality, and The Science, Behind The Japanese Space Program, The Rockets That Blasted Of Towards The Skies Taking With Them The Dreams, The Hopes, The Aspirations, The Sweat, Tears & Smiles of The People of Japan."

He was mourned that day and on the day before (18th of April) by those who were 'touched' by his excellence in developing the rockets, the visionary spirit and dedication to doing the best of the best, and remembered by his colleagues and friends, as one who did what he wanted to do (with his team) with extraordinary skill and success; but they all wanted him to rise once more and say "*Bakatare*". His grandson (my son) accompanied the body of his grandfather along with his grandmother passing on the way to the funeral hall through JAXA, and it was a emotional sight to see so many people (JAXA staff) waiting outside in the rain to pay their last respects to Yoji Shibato. Such was the man of the Japanese Space Program/Industry. An engineer with proven scientific excellence, collaborations and breakthrough creativity, Shibato Yoji was a man among the men with greatest minds. As he said to his family, once I am dead that my value will be realized by one and all, and that was what I saw and heard on the two days of the ceremonies that followed his death, with people young and old shedding genuine tears of sadness on his passing away at such an early age of 65, when he

had so much more to give but which was not to be. It now rests upon the younger generation of engineers the hope for a stronger and advanced Japanese Space Program and the new generation of rockets. One more thing about him deserves mention, which was his passion for *Sake*, and which was also considered by his friends and colleagues as a fuel for his engines of life.

I quote from the first Japanese astronaut M. Mori (*Nippon Kagaku Miraikan*) who said that “Shibato Yoji’s life was so spirited and energetic that it appeared passing a day following the rising and setting of the sun.” That is so very true and as the personal family members can attest he lived and died for his dream of taking Japan to the forefront of space exploration. Such was the life of this unique and strong-willed Rocketeer, who lived every day and every night till his last breath for his work, for his organisation(s), his country, and the people who are now the proud owners of the premier launch vehicle, the simple, humble, and robust H-IIA, a masterpiece that will stand tall among the 21st century rockets, but not as tall as who designed and built the rocket. Finally, on the 14th of June, the *Shi-ju-ku nichu* (49th day), his bones were laid to rest in Tsukuba in the presence of family and friends, leaving behind his work, memories and moments to be cherished by all.

Major Milestones of Indian JSPS Alumni Association

2006

>28 April, 2006: First meeting with JSPS office bearers in JSPS head office, Ichibancho, Chiyoda Ku, Japan. Received overwhelming support from JSPS fellows plaza office bearers (<http://www.indianjpsalumni.org/gallery.html>).

>19 May 2006: Launched Indian JSPS Alumni Association’s web site (www.indianjpsalumni.org)

>4 October 2006: Started indianjpsalumni Yahoo group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/indianjpsalumni/>).

>28 October 2006: First get-together of members at Toyo University Campus, Kawagoe.

>18 December, 2006 Accepted the bylaw for the Association after discussion through yahoo group.

2007

>1 January 2007: Office bearers of the association took charge.

>20 January 2007: Association newsletter was named “CONCORD”.

>31 March 2007: The first issue of “CONCORD”

was launched.

>22 August 2007: JSPS president Prof. Motoyuki Ono visited Delhi University during his trip to India (22. 08. 07).

2009

>March 2009: JSPS Alumni Chairman visited Delhi and discussed about conducting a seminar and get together function with Alumni members in Delhi.

>June 2009: Chairman started presenting All JSPS Alumni Associations activities to new JSPS post doctoral fellows (in Japan) during their introduction seminar with close collaboration with JSPS head office.

2010

>January 2010: New executive body took charge of Alumni Association for the next 3 years.

>10-11 May 2010: Seminar and JSPS Alumni get together at Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India.

New Executive Committee of Indian JSPS Alumni Association

The Indian JSPS Alumni Association has new members in its Executive Committee. This committee will be operational between 1 Jan 2010 - 31 December 2012. The new composition of the Committee is given below:

Dr. D. Sakthi Kumar, Chairman, Professor, Bio Nano Electronics Research Center, Graduate School for Interdisciplinary New Science, TOYO University, Kawagoe-shi, Saitama, 350 - 8585, Japan, E-Mail: dr-sakthi@yahoo.com.

Dr. Kailash Manda, Vice-chairman, Scientist 'D', Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Br. Mazumdar Marg Delhi-110054, E-mail: kailashmanda@gmail.com.

Dr. Pravin D. Kunte, General Secretary Senior Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa-403 004, INDIA, E-mail: dr_pd-kunte@yahoo.com.

Dr. R. S. Rajeev, Joint Secretary, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engg., Queen’s University Belfast, Ashby Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5AH, UK, E-mail: rsrajeev@gmail.com.

Dr. Annie John, Joint Secretary, Scientist, Division of Implant Biology, Biomedical Technology Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and

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Dr. Manush Sayd Mohammed, Convener, Fisheries Research Agency, National Research Institute for Fisheries Science, Yokohama, Japan, E-mail: manushsm@yahoo.com.

Dr. Sumantha Bhattacharya, Convener, Department of Chemistry, Shiga University of Medical Science, Seta, Otsu, Japan - 520 2192, E-mail: sum_9974@rediffmail.com.

Dr. Bhuvaneshwaran, Convener, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Nagoya, Japan.

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Dr. Srinivasulu Tadisetty, Sub Editor (Newsletter),

Head, R&D Department, ICSA India Limited, India, E-mail: tadisetty_s@yahoo.co.in.

Current Affairs: The Planet in Peril

S.V.R.K. Prabhakar, IGES, Japan

It was believed that the planet Earth can sustain any amount of pressure exerted by earthlings. Now it is proved wrong! The mankind, unlike any other creature, has grown in greed to an extent that it is threatening its own existence. Indications are numerous. Ever increasing global atmospheric temperatures and resulting imbalance in earth bio-physical interactions have only made us vulnerable. Weather events known to happen once in 100 years are returning much more frequently than before. If you think it may not be applicable to your region, think again. A simple example of what Mother Nature can do is the recent volcanic eruption in the Island that has disrupted the international air travel for days and caused billions of dollars worth loss to the travel industry. Events like these remind us where we stand in front of nature's fury. The repeated international negotiations only seem to have done little good to date and there is much more to be done to save our planet. There are some hard choices to be made by individuals like you and me and institutions and nations keeping in view the future of the mankind. It is time to stop bicker arguments of who is responsible behind it and get back to the actual cause of saving the earth for our own sake. There are not many planets to spare!

"Working with IV"

has been eye-opening to possibilities

I never even considered."



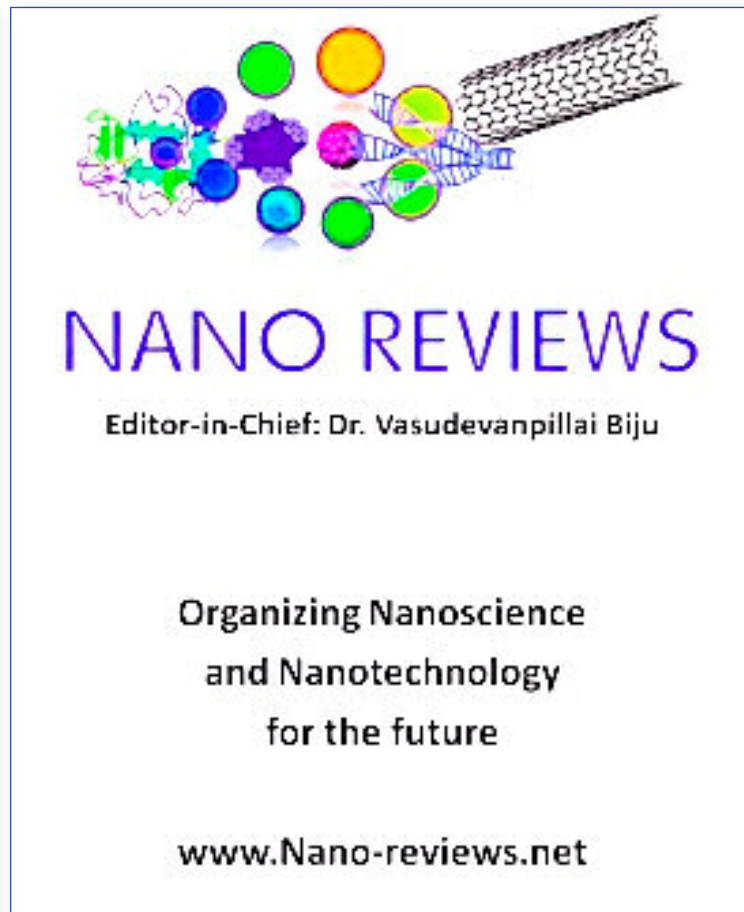
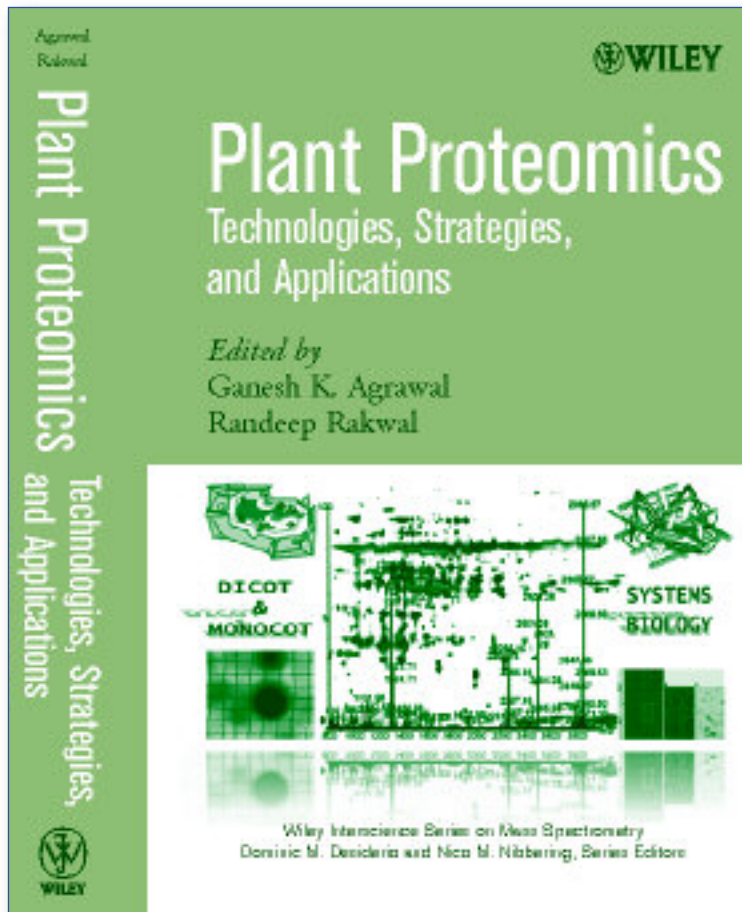
Dr. Yessna Zolotareva
Head, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore

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Program in brief

10 May 2010	
09:00	Registration & Refreshments
10:00	Booths: Shake hands with Japanese universities
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.00	Inauguration: Mr. Masashi MIZUKAMI , charge d'affaires, Embassy of Japan, India; Welcome speech: Dr. Pravin D. Kunte; Presidential Address: Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar; Inaugural Address: Mr. Masashi MIZUKAMI, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of Japan, India; Release of CONCORD, IJSPSAA newsletter; Special Talks by Prof. Surendra Prasad, IIT Delhi, India; Prof. Yozo Fujino, JSPS; Dr. Virendra Shankar (Former Scientific Councilor); Thanks giving: Dr. Kailash Manda
15.00 – 15.45	Key-Note Address: Prof. Manabu Kiuchi, Japan
15.45 – 16.00	Tea Break
16:00-18:00	Invited talks by Prof. Yoshio Bando; Prof. B. R. Mehta; Prof. A. Jayakrishnan; and Prof. A. Misra
18.00 – 19.30	Booths: Shake hands with Japanese universities
19.30 – 21.00	Gala Dinner (Dress Code: Formals or Indian attire)
11 May 2010	
8.30 – 9.00	Executive Committee Meeting
9.00 – 10.30	General Assembly of IJSPSAA: Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar; Mr. Hisashi Kato, JSPS; & speech by other members.
10.30 – 12.00	Formation of different Indian chapters of IJSPSAA & selection of office bearers for these chapters
12.00	Concluding remarks by Prof. D. Sakthi Kumar, Japan

Prominent speakers in the seminar



Prof. Dr. Manabu Kiuchi



Prof. Yoshio Bando



Prof. B. R. Mehta



Prof. A. Jayakrishnan



Prof. Ashok Misra



SEMINAR ON

“Recent Advances and Future Directions in Science and Technology”

Venue: Seminar Hall, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), New Delhi

Date: May 10-11, 2010

Seminar Inauguration by : Mr. Masashi MIZUKAMI
chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi , India

May 10th
14.00 to 16.00

Key Note Address: “Background and Bases of Manufacturing in Japan”

Prof. Manabu Kiuchi, Teikyo Heisei University, Japan

(Council member, Japan-India Science Council of JSPS)

Invited Talks:

1. “Research on Nanotechnology and Activities in Japan”

Prof. Yoshio Bando, Chief Operating Officer, MANA, NIMS, Tsukuba, Japan.

2. “Synthesis and application of nanostructures for switching and sensing Devices”

Prof. B. R. Mehta, Dept. of Physics, IIT D, New Delhi, India

3. “Biomaterials for Innovative Applications”

Prof. A. Jayakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University, India

4. “Excitement in Creativity and Inventions”

Prof. A. Misra, Chairman, Intellectual Ventures (Former Director IIT B, Mumbai)

Shake Hands with Japanese Universities



Booths of Japanese Universities:

Organized by JSPS Alumni Members for Different Japanese Universities (10.May 2010, From 10.00 to 19.30)
(Providing information regarding various Japanese universities and courses... You Can receive information directly from our JSPS Alumni Members who worked in these Japanese Universities...)

Organized by: **Indian JSPS Alumni Association**

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For more information please contact: Dr. Kailash Manda (9910940401), Dr. Sanjay Dhalate (9871821508)