



Words from the President

President
Teruko Honjo

Hello everyone, scholars and alumni of Honjo International Scholarship Foundation.

Honjo International Scholarship Foundation was established in 1996, and in 2013, we will welcome our 17th class of scholars. There are over 350 alumni today, and about two-thirds of them now work in their home or neighboring countries, contributing to the development of various countries or regions.

Situations surrounding overseas education in Japan have changed greatly in these 16 years since we first selected 17 inaugural scholars and started the activity of our foundation. Although the national plan to accept 100,000 overseas students set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology was realized in 2003, it is often discussed now that "overseas education in Japan" may have lost its attractiveness already, and that overseas students may have learnt about Japan's technology but that communication with Japanese speakers might have been difficult, so they might not have loved life or culture in Japan; and it is often discussed that there might have been some students going back home even disliking Japan. Even if Japan has world top-class technology, a high level of academics, and a beautiful culture that we can be proud of, why is Japan not understood by foreign people who stay here for four or five years, or sometimes even longer? Through my activities in the foundation, I have been striving to find answers to these questions, wishing that overseas students would love this country.

What should we do to help students become fonder of Japan? It may be a good idea to hold opportunities for them to experience Japanese traditional culture, eat traditional food together, or play sports such as baseball, which is not so common in many other countries. However, what is more important is that there should always be a feeling of warm

sympathy as a precondition to all these activities. I have had chances to visit foreign countries, and especially when I travel to other Asian countries I feel that "Japan is not anything special." Don't Japanese people have the incorrect assumption that Japan is different from other countries, in good ways or in bad ways, and that it is somewhat special? Sometimes we assume that Japan has an especially well-developed economy and unique culture that is exceptionally beautiful. Contrarily, sometimes we are so quick at throwing out traditions and old thoughts, jumping onto new ideas. But are these ways of thinking really true? In the first place, didn't our economic development and beautiful culture flourish in Japan in its own way, thanks to the cooperation of neighboring countries, which provided or exported their culture and goods to us?

I believe that it is only after having these thoughts of appreciation, respect, and warm sympathy that the opportunities for scholarship, travel, and cultural experience we provide result in the lively joy that students "love Japan."

I am not sure if we were successful in conveying this thought to all 350 alumni during their stay. However, our relationship has not ended when they have left Japan with their various feelings. If there are any alumni who feel that his or her relationship with Japan "has ended," please come back to us to hold hands together once again. We are more than happy to welcome you with our warmest heart.

Sometimes I remember my husband's words: "All students are members of the Honjo family. When they go back home, I wish that they talk about the good things of Japan, telling their friends of happy stories from during their stay." A seed he planted more than a decade ago has extended its roots and branches, and is still growing to become a big tree. All of you are our wonderful students, and we wish to continue providing warm support.

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Cover Design Akiko Obuchi

SENPAI! Interview vol.1



In the first round of our Senpai Interview we have Dr. Kyalo, who was in the 10th group of Honjo International Scholarship Foundation (HISF) recipients. Kyalo was born in Kenya, studied in Japan, worked in Columbia University for two years, and then from April 2012 he has been working in The University of Tokyo as a postdoctoral researcher. We interviewed him on his experiences in Japan and his future research goals.

Kyalo Stephen Kanyiva, Ph.D.

Kyalo was born in Kenya in 1978. He came to Japan in 1999 under *Monbusho* scholarship. He earned a PhD in Engineering from Kyoto University where he studied Material Chemistry, then went to Columbia University in New York City where he worked as a postdoctoral research fellow between 2010-2012. From April 2012 he has been working in Organic and Synthetic Chemistry Laboratory, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo as an ERATO/JPSP researcher. Kyalo was a Honjo International Scholarship Foundation fellow between 2006-2010 for his Masters and PhD courses.

"I was born in Kenya, but brought up in Japan".

What kind of child were you in Kenya?

Kyalo In my childhood I studied a lot with my three brothers. My elder brothers taught me, and then I taught my younger brother. In Africa there are many families who depend on agricultural products as their source of income. Therefore many parents encourage their children to study hard for excellent careers in order to earn stable income and salary.

What was your childhood dream?

Kyalo I wanted to be a medical doctor. Since I was a child I was always amused by how a small tablet of medicine can cure a disease in a big body. Therefore I wanted to become a magician who can cure people's diseases by giving them just a very small tablet of medicine.

What did you do after high school?

Kyalo In the final examination of high school I scored magnificent results. Therefore, the head teacher of my high school employed me to work as an untrained teacher to my junior students. It was then when my uncle's friend read about the Japanese scholarship from a Kenyan newspaper and advised me to apply. Later I took an examination in the Japanese Embassy in Kenya. I was chosen together with six more students to study in Japan for four years under Japanese government (MEXT) sponsorship.

Tell me about your life after coming to Japan, and in Suzuka National Collage of Technology.

Kyalo In the first year I studied Japanese language in Tokyo, then joined Suzuka National Collage of Technology in Mie prefecture. My immediate life in Suzuka was difficult because people there speak in several dialects such as Kansai, Wakayama, Mikawa and others. I was keen enough to discuss with my teachers and tutor or study by myself in dormitory whatever I did not understand in classes. Sometimes I translated difficult Japanese words into English for easier understanding. In spite of all those difficulties, I spend good time with friends by hanging out on weekends and studying together before examinations. In Suzuka I also had a hospitable host family who invited me to their house for New Year and golden week vacations. They also helped

me learn Japanese culture and always treat me as one of their sons.

Then you joined Nagoya Institute of Technology and Kyoto University for your Bachelor, Master and PhD courses?

Kyalo Yes, after learning the basics of chemistry in Suzuka, I joined Nagoya Institute of Technology where I learned Applied Chemistry, and then in Kyoto University I majored on Material Chemistry. My friends in Kyoto University helped me a lot because they were very bright and hardworking in research. My PhD supervisor also gave me the opportunity to participate in domestic and international conferences. This enabled me to meet different people who have impacted my life greatly. My vision and thinking style have been improved by discussing my research findings with the researchers I have met.

How does a small medicine cure diseases of a big body? – The quest for answer to this question is the origin of my interest in Chemistry.

Do you like Chemistry?

Kyalo Yes, I like Chemistry very much. It is interesting to learn about 'change'. Imagine how a small medicine cures a big body's disease. Is that not *magic*? I am interested in knowing the reason. The development of chemistry has influenced not only drug synthesis but also other fields such as agrochemistry, organic materials, biotechnology and all life sciences. I am always happy to see other people use the ideas and concepts I have developed with my coworkers. I will feel very encouraged if our ideas are used by the society.

Tell us briefly about the Material Chemistry you majored in Kyoto University.

Kyalo Organic materials include pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, organic electronics and other substances whose skeleton basically consist of carbon and hydrogen. In Kyoto University I researched on an efficient way of making such materials by developing new chemical reactions. The conventional methods for synthesis of organic materials produce unwanted wastes to environment and often require long steps. Reduction of production costs and wastes is currently one of the hot topics for organic chemists.



What kind of research did you do in Columbia University?

Kyalo I researched on artificial means of making natural products. The goal for such a research is to search for novel biological activities, test the power of the existing organic reactions and discover new reactions. For example, by changing the structure of green tea's *catechin* or coffee's *caffeine*, you may change their biological profile and thereby make a more useful drug. In fact there are many drugs made using this approach. This is also Chemistry.

What kind of research are you currently doing in The University of Tokyo?

Kyalo Although the researches I did in Kyoto University and Columbia University are different, I am now using them as a base to find a reaction for making a certain class of new materials. Since I am working in Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, I am maneuvering a novel and efficient synthetic method for making certain pharmaceuticals.

I believe we should discuss more. We cannot depend too much on textbooks to learn. By meeting and talking with various people our knowledge will increase, and new opportunities will be born.

Do you experience differences in the research environments of US and Japan?

Kyalo Compared to their counterparts in Japan, students in US are given more control to build their projects, and therefore have more originality and responsibility in their research. I feel that instructors in Japan want to control the

direction of research more, though they will take more time to teach students politely. The American style is suitable for the capable students, but those who cannot work on their own struggle a lot. In addition, in US students ask more questions to appeal and prove their capability, which is contrary to the average Japanese system where intense discussions are not common. In my opinion it is important to ask even simple questions in laboratory seminars so that undergraduate students practice how to discuss in conferences. If we do not have extensive discussions then everyone has to learn new things on his/her own from textbooks.

Although it is not possible to decide the best environment between US and Japan, when I become an instructor I wish to have my students obey time but have more freedom in their research.

What is your future dream?

Kyalo I would like to become a research instructor in university or company. Later in life I am interested in using my experiences to do consulting work. For example I want to become someone who can be consulted when there is a collaboration work between Kenya and Japan. Both knowledge and extensive experience are important to do such works effectively. I would like to become someone who can give opinions from different perspectives.

Can you give a message to your juniors?

Kyalo Yes. I would like to let them know that "your hard work will be rewarded". Although luck may be an important factor in success, I believe that "hard work is the foundation of success". In addition, it is important to seize opportunities. For example, one reason I managed to study in Japan is because of following the advice from my uncle's friend to apply for a scholarship advertised in a Kenyan newspaper. I also managed to work in Columbia University after consulting a Belgium friend we met in a conference. Opportunities will always come from unusual sources, it is important we seize them. Also, a wise person will make more opportunities than he finds.

Can you give an advice to the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation students?

Kyalo Firstly I am deeply grateful to Honjo International Scholarship Foundation for granting me a fellowship for my Master and PhD courses. I do not know any other funding organization that supports scholarship recipients so amazingly. For their smooth life here in Japan, I advise the current scholarship recipients to improve their Japanese language for better communication with Japanese people. My message to everyone including OB and OG is that since HISF has assembled us from different corners of the world and supported us to become reputable people, we need to maintain our network and help each other in our research and private lives.

In our minds we can get a picture of Kyalo studying with his three brothers under guidance of their education-enthusiastic mother. Since childhood he has learned that no one is alone in life. We get help from others, and then we help new people. By doing this we all become happy. Kyalo has naturally learned and practiced this lifestyle from childhood. Just as a teacher instructs students, in layman's words Kyalo has humbly given us words that will remain in our hearts.



Kyoto Trip in 2009



Doctoral Thesis Presentation in 2007

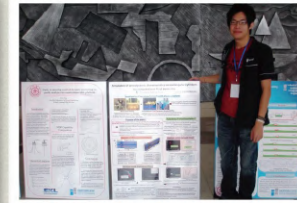
Here, There, Everywhere...

Pictures and Memories through 2011-2012.

Great pictures from all over the world... Places everyone visited, scholars are living, and conferences they participated.



Introduced Lao silk at FOOOMA JAPAN 2012 International Food Machinery & Technology Exhibition
Mr. Douangchak Sithixay (The 16th Class)



Participated in the exchange program with Shanghai Jiao Tong University.
Mr. Souksivongxay Soulachack (The 15th Class)



With my father at the River Seine
Mr. Akihide Negi
(Université Paris-Sorbonne, the 16th Class of HISF)



With my brothers, sisters and nephews at my home in Morocco
Mr. El Azhari Mourad
(The 15th Class)



Visited Sydney for an International Conference
Mr. Le Hieu Hanh (The 14th Class)



At Bago, Myanmar
Ms. Thanda Oo (The 7th Class)



I have just come here in UK in September. I do my best here for 4 years from now.
Mr. Hiroaki Koseki
(University of Cambridge, the 16th Class of HISF)

mini Alumni Parties Around the World



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (January, 2012)
Mr. Nabin (Nepalese) invited them for a dinner when he visited Ulaanbaatar.
(From the left) Mr. Amarbayar Adiyabat (The 7th Class)
Mr. Aryal Nabin (The 4th Class) / Mr. Amarsanaa Jozag (The 9th Class)



Bangkok, Thailand (May, 2012)
It was their first met, but they found out that they went to the same junior high school in the local area in Thailand. What a small world!!
(From the left) Mr. S. Phonasatorn (The 14th Class)
Ms. Kawashima / Mr. L. Manakan (The 6th Class)



Dhaka, Bangladesh (May, 2012)
We heard Mr. Leporn's story for the first time how he left Japan in tears after the East Japan Earthquake occurred in March 11, 2011.
(From the left) Ms. Sultana Nayar (The 14th Class)
Ms. Kawashima / Mr. Syed Emadul Haque (The 14th Class)
Mr. Leporn Kumer Saha (The 14th Class)



Beijing, China (June, 2012)
Honjo scholars living in Beijing, they are good friends beyond the age.
(From the left) Ms. Wang Ting (The 2nd Class)
Ms. Huang Lihui (The 4th Class) / Mr. Wang Wei (The 4th Class)
Mr. Liu Lu (The 2nd Class)

Genome Analysis of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

-Research Internship in South Africa-

Department of Medical Genome Sciences,
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences,
The University of Tokyo

Mayu Yoshikawa



To learn how I, a doctoral student majoring in basic biological science research at University of Tokyo, could contribute to the global health issues plaguing South Africa, I completed a research internship for 110 days beginning in March 2012 at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH). The mission of K-RITH is to conduct outstanding basic findings into new tools to control tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, and expand the educational opportunities in the region.

TB iceberg floating in an ocean of HIV

The following metaphor serves well to illustrate the relationship between TB and HIV in South Africa: "If the TB cases seen in hospitals are the tip of an iceberg of TB infection, then the iceberg is floating in an ocean of HIV."



Market in Durban

According to the WHO, an estimated 2 billion people – a staggering one-third of the global population, are infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M.tb.), the bacterium that causes TB (Keshavjee and Seugn, 2008). Most infections are asymptomatic and latent, but one in ten latent infections eventually progresses to active disease, taking the lives of approximately 1.8 million people each year (WHO, 2009). The risk of developing TB is estimated to be 50 times greater in people living with HIV (AVERT.org, 2012). Globally, 33 million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV/AIDS strikes the immune system, leaving it too weak to defend the body against many illnesses and invaders, including TB infection.

This phenomenon of "adding fuel (HIV infection) to the fire (TB infection)" is actually happening in South Africa, which is regarded as an epicenter of the AIDS pandemic. With an HIV infection rate of more than 55% among young people within KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), the province where Durban is located in South Africa (UNAIDS, 2008), TB is considered the leading killer of those infected.

Expansion of Drug resistant TB

In 2005, researchers in South Africa came to face with one of their deadliest fears—the emergence of a virulent strain of drug-resistant TB that quickly killed nearly 50% of those infected. TB can usually be treated with a course of four standard (first-line) anti-TB drugs developed during the 1950s. Drug-resistant TB, however, has developed resistance to these first-line anti-TB drugs over the years, resulting in the growing emergence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB.

The rate of MDR and XDR-TB in KZN has been increasing due to the high prevalence of HIV together with poor infection control has led to ongoing transmission of MDR and XDR-TB. However, the extent of the spread of MDR and XDR-TB remains unknown and current research efforts are focusing on ways to rapidly assess the distribution of drug-resistant TB in the province so that more effective control measures can be implemented. The data regarding the burden of MDR and XDR-TB remain limited because of a lack of laboratory and infrastructure capacity necessary to routinely test infected patients.

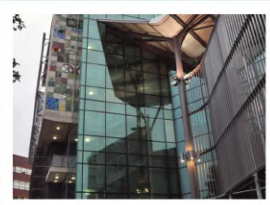
Few studies have characterized drug-resistant conferring mutations associated with resistance to anti-TB drugs at the population level. Systematic surveillance and tracking of drug-resistant TB allows for a better understanding of the overall burden of the disease and can inform research and practice in diagnosis, treatment, and infection control.

My project

One of the main projects at K-RITH is to develop a database of genome sequences of M.tb. strains and their associated drug-resistance, aiming to influence the guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of drug resistant TB.

As a first step to gaining a better understanding of the population genetics of M.tb. in KZN, my research project aimed to optimize a high throughput genotyping technique that can be applied to an existing collection of M.tb. isolates collected from across KZN. Genotyping is the process of determining differences in the genetic make-up (genotype) of an individual by examining the individual's DNA sequence and comparing it to another individual's sequence. K-RITH has recently acquired a next generation sequencing platform and it is technically straightforward to adapt conventional genotyping techniques considering the speed, cost, sensitivity, and specificity.

For the first month, I planned my project and prepared to use the next generation sequencer. A key difference between working in South Africa and working in Japan, is that it sometimes takes several months for delivery of the materials needed to carry out experiments in South Africa. It is thus very important to plan the experiments very well in advance. For the next month, I prepared and sequenced the genome of the M.tb. isolates collected in KZN by using the next



K-RITH's new building

generation sequencer. I became the first person to operate the sequencer with success at K-RITH and obtain data. Even though there is a protocol available to use the next generation sequencer, it was mentally and physically very hard to operate this expensive instrument by myself. During the final month of my internship, I analyzed the data and classified the relationship between mutation of the M.tb. genome and drug resistance.

Through the life in Durban

During the time I spent in Durban, I found myself beginning to fully understand the dynamics involved in answering the long-standing question: "Why can't the spread of HIV infection be stopped?"

Firstly, in a developing nation such as South Africa, it is difficult for poor people to live from day to day, and they simply cannot afford to pay much attention to their quality of life. In South Africa, even though the government covers the cost of treatment for TB and HIV, transportation to the health care centres is not provided. There are many instances where, even though patients managed to get to the hospital, they unable to receive treatment due to a shortage of either health care workers or drugs. People easily give up their treatment regimens because of such circumstances. I also heard doctors say that taking medicines often reminds patients that they have a disease and patients sometimes cannot stand that fact. Another example is that even though health workers advise women taking medicine for TB and HIV not to become pregnant because the medicines have serious secondary side effects for the unborn baby, many women still become pregnant. I remember very shocking words from one lady with whom I had spoken to, who said: "We were educated about HIV/AIDS and also have information about these diseases. But it does not change the situation. HIV/AIDS is like tobacco. Imagine that you know how bad for health tobacco is, but you still do not stop smoking tobacco." By her words, I realized that the reason why people cannot stop HIV infection in South Africa is not because they lack the education and information, but because they cannot change the situation that they are in due to circumstances beyond their control.

During my internship, I also had the opportunity to attend a meeting of TB medical practitioners at hospitals in KZN. The purpose of the meeting was to share knowledge about the current status of MDR and XDR-TB patients in order to better understand the state of the TB epidemic in KZN and to assess the best approach with which to tackle the issue. I found that there is no really concrete way to diagnose nor treat patients at the moment and doctors have to determine on their own the best way to evaluate and treat each TB patient considering their HIV infection, side effects of multidrug usage, drug resistance and so on. This experience further convinced me of the critical importance of establishing quick, reliable diagnostics for MDR and XDR-TB.

Conclusion

Even though the facilities and resources at K-RITH are currently limited due to the institutions recent inception, I was still required to produce a certain output within three months. And in this way, I learned how to hone my problem solving skills to quickly assess and resolve issues. I also had the opportunity to visit local TB hospitals and attend meetings

with TB doctors, learning more about TB from various perspectives. It was an extremely valuable opportunity to be able to carry out research at K-RITH as it allowed me to understand the full impact of the TB and HIV problem in

South Africa with insight into the roles played by the politics, culture and economy of the country. The experience has shown me that the common sense that the Japanese have applied to issues within our country cannot always be applied to other countries, and we need to think apply critical thinking to problems, taking the situation into account relative to the location.

It was truly a privilege to work at this research institution based so

strategically at one of the world's largest hot spots of HIV and TB as it allowed me a rare opportunity to understand the global health problem by actually seeing how scientists can directly contribute to improving global health by first improving health at a nucleated centre of disease prevalence. This experience has shaped my future career plan such that I now have a clearer vision for my direction in science. I hope to become involved in projects contributing toward the resolution of global health issues by associating myself in the near future with institutes that, like K-RITH, have an admirable mission, a mission to create international bridges that connect basic science to global health. At this juncture, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every individual who supported me during this program.



TB Meeting at King George V Hospital



Hluhluwe national park



Wedding party in one of the townships, Umlazi

Mayu Yoshikawa

Her research at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences in Tokyo University is biochemical analysis of small RNA pathways. She has ambitiously contributed to the international activities since she was an undergraduate student in Kyoto University, and her goal is to become a researcher working for improving global health. She has affiliated with Japanese graduate student program since 2011.

Disabled Children in Bangladesh: A Severe Problem

Mission of NPO "Bridge of Community Development"



Syed Emdadul Haque, Ph.D.

Konnichiwa!! I am Dr. Syed Emdadul Haque. I have completed my MHS and PhD from Graduate School of Medicine, School of International Health, The University of Tokyo, Japan. I have 8 years working experiences on important public health issues in Bangladesh. At present I am working with U Chicago Research Bangladesh (A sister concern of The University of Chicago, USA) as "Postdoctoral Research Scientist". I am establishing a NPO in Bangladesh named "Bridge of Community Development (BCD)" which is devoted to work on health for poor and disabled people in Bangladesh.

Background:

Disability is the bio-medical and psychological problem around the world. An individual with his/her physical (body structures, e.g. anatomical parts, the chromosomal disorders) or psychological (language, learning, and cognitive disorders) disability or both cannot act normally and play role effectively in social situations according to social and cultural expectations in any society¹. These human disabilities begin at and gradually go through from mild to severe situations across the individual life cycle. In Bangladesh, this problem is a major social and economic phenomenon. The prevalence of disability is believed to be high for reasons relating to overpopulation, extreme poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, and lack of medical care and services as Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world². Children living in poverty have a particular vulnerability to disability.

Children's disability aged from 0-18 years refers to the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social impairment with which they cannot act or play effective social roles in his/her present life. There is very little reliable data available on this important issue in Bangladesh. An estimated prevalence rate for pre-school and primary-aged children (3-10 years) is approximately 2.6 (n=2,559,222), which is almost 10.0% of the childhood population³. Studies conducted by JICA showed that, out of 2,559,222 children the most of the children were physical disabilities (41.5%) followed by visual disabilities (19.7%), speech and hearing (19.6%), intellectual disabilities (7.4%), cerebral palsy (7.0%), multiple disabilities (3.4%), and mental illness (1.4%)⁴.

Educational needs of disabled children in Bangladesh:

Basic education for all children, including children with disabilities is human rights. According to the principle in the Framework for Action is that all children should be accommodate in all facilities regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic and/or other conditions⁵. Disabilities also have a correlation with literacy. According to a study on prevention of disability, 70.0% of persons with disabilities are illiterate⁶. Out of 2.6 million children with disabilities in Bangladesh, less than 1,500 have



U Chicago research clinic in Arahazar, Bangladesh

access to an education in special schools sponsored by Ministry of Social Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh. However, 2,450,000 disabled children are facing problems due to lack of special school programs for them. It is also reported that children with intellectual and physical disabilities are mostly marginalized and neglected. On the other hand, 45.0% of the total absence from school among disabled children is because of non-acceptance in schools.

Parents of disabled children need knowledge and awareness:

Most families having disabled children are at risk in economic, social, and educational dimensions. Not only did they have to worry about how to feed and care for their child, but they also had to protect the child from hostile attitudes of the society, from rejection by almost all educational systems, by lack of knowledge and child's disability, and by even less information about how to parents that child. The thinking of the parents was dominated by the attitude that there was no future for their child. However, it is important for the parents to get information about their disabled children's care, treatment, and education.

A case story: The boy who would not stretch

Hafiz did not cry two hours born 10 years ago in a rural district in Bangladesh. He would not breastfeed and he did not stop drooling. During a field survey of disabilities in the



Disabled children in Bangladesh
(This photo is not related with the body.)

community Hafiz's mother did not mention him, but two years later a neighbor told the rehabilitation workers about him. They found him curled up on the floor in a room in his own dirt, extremely thin and with skin diseases and an ear infection. The mother allowed the rehabilitation workers to start working with Hafiz, but there is limited progress so far. Treatment has started too late and the rehabilitation worker does not have time for the intense physiotherapy that he needs for several hours every day. Hafiz's grandmother said that when Hafiz was born he lay inside a second membrane that had not burst during labor. The delivery, which was attended by unskilled women, took a long time, she remembered. When we asked her what the reasons might be for Hafiz's condition, she said that his mother had a lot of hard work during her pregnancy, but that evil spirits might also have been involved. After he was born they took him to the hospital for one month for injections, but he did not improve. They had also tried spiritual healing, and to stretch his body both by hanging him from the veranda poles and by putting him in a vertical hole in the ground every day for a month. Then they had given up.



A waiting room of the clinic in the healthcare center

Hafiz's mother needs to work every day to feed Hafiz and his three younger siblings so she cannot do the exercise with Hafiz that she has learned from the rehabilitation workers.

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Expected Roles of NPO "BCD":

Social stigma poses a major challenge in the early diagnosis of disabled children. Due to lack of understanding of disability, many parents don't want to face the reality that their children are disabled. They often feel shame to disclose it to others in the early stages. But this does harm to the affected children. They feel uneasy about bringing their disabled children to medical care, social gatherings, thinking that it might be disturbing for others.

In Bangladesh, treatment and schooling for disabled children are expensive, which is a burden for a family that has to take care of other children. An accurate count of children with disabilities and training for community healthcare providers to understand signs and symptoms of disability are greatly needed. Therefore, Our NPO "BCD" would like to take initiative to count of children with disabilities in Bangladesh. We would like to provide low cost education and primary health care to disabled children by constructing a school and a primary health care center. We also would like to provide health education among disabled children and their parents in the community by trained community health workers. It will be great help for disabled children to educate and bring them in normal life that does not exist now. The programs will be also helpful to build the self-esteem of children and families through sports and arts curricula.

In addition, awareness programs will be introduced by BCD with a support from Bangladesh Govt. and international agencies to create greater awareness of parents and families, teachers, community members, School Management Committees (SMCs), and the disabled children's peers. As a result, children with disability may improve with proper social care, health care, and mental support and live a close to normal life.



Enjoying a social gathering for disabled children

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This is a research report from a recipient of one of the five overseas scholarship programs, Honjo-JMSA scholarship program. The JMSA (Japanese Medical Society of America) was established in 1973 in New York, and it is dedicated to promoting the exchange of medical and educational information between the US and Japan, as well as in providing valuable medical information to the general public. Honjo-JMSA program supports 2-3 medical students every year since 2006.



Student Exchange Program in Fukushima



Alisa Prager Honjo-JMSA Program in 2012

Alisa Prager was born in Tokyo, Japan to a Japanese mother and an American father, and lived in Japan for twelve years and England for six years before moving to the United States. She graduated from Duke University with a BS in Biology, and is currently a second year medical student at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is fluent in both Japanese and English.

After the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, I wanted to find ways to raise awareness about the disaster in the United States and engage in relief activities. For the Honjo-JMSA Scholarship, one of my activities was to help organize a program that would allow U.S. medical students to go to Fukushima to learn about the disaster firsthand and volunteer in the community. This program became a reality this summer with the cooperation of the Japanese Medical Support Network (JAMSnet), the Japanese Medical Society of America (JMSA), and Fukushima Medical University (FMU). Three students including myself participated in a weeklong disaster medicine and volunteer seminar at the Education Center for Disaster Medicine at FMU. This was an incredible opportunity for medical students with ties to Japan like myself to gain basic skills as well as to support ongoing relief efforts.



During our stay, we spent the first two days attending seminars on the basics of radiation biology, the history of past nuclear disasters and the current situation in Fukushima. We learned how to examine the thyroid gland with an ultrasound, perform disaster triage, and respond to a radiation injury case using a manikin. Then we spent three days visiting key regions and interacting with individuals who were directly affected by the disaster. At the mental health outreach center for elderly residents, we measured

blood pressure, sang a song, and talked to residents about their experiences living in temporary housing. While volunteering at a community center for families living in temporary housing, we observed worried mothers consulting physicians about the radiation levels in parks and the safety of Fukushima produce. We also visited the base camp for the Fukushima Daiichi cleanup and learned about the measures taken to clean the site and decommission the nuclear power plants, which could take decades to complete. Lastly, we visited one region destroyed by the tsunami and met a father who was building a playground in honor of the son he had lost.



This weeklong program gave us a much deeper understanding of the far-reaching effects of the disaster and the need to continue supporting these regions. Upon returning to the U.S., we gave a presentation about our experiences to a group of students and faculty at a Consortium for Japan Relief (CJR) meeting at Columbia University. This program was very well received and we are in the process of advertising this opportunity at Columbia University under the new title "Nishimiya Fellowship Program" in honor of the late Ambassador Shinichi Nishimiya. I am also helping to organize next year's trip. We hope to continue to provide this opportunity to U.S. medical students during subsequent summers.

Hello, again!!

~Messages from Honjo Alumni~

How are you, everyone? It has been years since we left Japan.

We are sending messages to all the Honjo Family while recalling great memories in Japan.



From China

The 1st Class
Bai Guodong, Ph.D.
(China)
Waseda University

I have been familiar with Japanese culture through my long days of study at Waseda University. I am grateful of Honjo Foundation and talk with former late chairman, Mr. Honjo is my best memory. It is felt like yesterday that I experienced to be drunken by tea for the first time when we visited Itoen Plant in Shizuoka. I went back to China in 2000 and started to teach the commercial law at Fudan University. I have been having a class for last four years teaching "Analyzing legal cases in the period of post World War II in Japan." In this class, I introduce Japanese law culture by comparing Japanese constitution and Chinese law system. Anyhow, I love Japanese culture. I also love Ito-En products. If anyone visits Shanghai, please come to Fudan University.



From Korea

The 1st Class
Byungchul Hong, Ph.D.
(Korea)
The University of Tokyo

I work in the intellectual property industry in Seoul. The importance of intellectual property has been surfaced after the cases such as the patent litigation between Apple Computer Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. Thanks to encouragement of former late chairman, Mr. Honjo, I was able to focus on my research, which was valuable experience for me. I am really hoping that younger HISF scholars are having as great time as I did. And I would like to advice, "Do your best all the time in everything". Now I know every small thing would be important in your life. When I was studying in Japan, it was difficult for me to know that every little thing would accumulate to turn to be a precious treasure for my life. Think and do your best every day.

From Taiwan

The 4th Class
Yu Chien-Hung, Ph.D.
(Taiwan)
Tokyo Medical and Dental University



I obtained a doctoral degree at Tokyo Medical and Dental University in 2002, and I currently work at School of Density, China Medical University, in Taiwan as a manager. There are many good memories when I have studied in Japan, especially, I remember that I traveled Shizuoka with HISF students and I helped staff of Honjo Foundation install PC and internet network in their office. I have never forgotten my gratefulness of Itoen so that I still drink Oi Ocha every day here. I also introduced Ito-En products to my family and friends, and they usually drink ones. Now Ito-En drinks are produced in Taiwan, and this is such a great opportunity to tighten a relationship between Taiwan and Japan. I will keep drinking Ito-En products. To Itoen with Love...

From Nepal

The 4th Class
Aryal Nabin, Ph.D.
(Nepal)
Hitotsubashi University



It has already been 5 years since I left Japan to join as a program officer for Niwano Peace Foundation, South Asia Program. I was a Honjo Scholar pursuing the Ph.D. degree in Development Economics. I work in a region, which is one of the most financially discrepant places on the earth. On one hand, you see billionaires driving BMW, and in other, you see people without basic needs for survival. One of my tasks is to formulate appropriate action plans for the latter. And this is no easy task. I discovered that there is a huge gap between theory and reality of economics. Thus, in order to find out what is the reality, one needs to be at the grass root. I am extremely happy that I am at the grass root level. My message to current Honjo scholar is that mastering theory is important but do not forget to pursue the reality. Lastly, but certainly not the least, choose a career that makes you happy from inside and not necessarily that makes you plentiful. Good luck!!



The 5th Class
Liu Ying, Ph.D.
(China)
University of Tsukuba

Including my experience, I know there are many people suffering from sterility. Since I wanted to share the skill and knowledge that I have learned in Japan, I decided to work at a hospital specialized for Japanese requiring infertility treatments. Because I still have to speak Japanese every day, I feel like I am back in Japan. There has been bad news every day between China and Japan, hope this gets better soon.



The 5th Class
Yan Hua, Ph.D.
(China)
Tokyo Medical and Dental University

I returned to Shanghai in 2007, and am now working for a Fertility Center in Shanghai Shuguang Hospital. I see and treat patients with sterility everyday while doing research. I can see Ito-En products here in Shanghai these days, and it reminds me Honjo family and late Mr. Honjo as well. I learned a lot through my life in Japan especially about passion toward work, sincerity, and diligence. I am really thankful to people I met in Japan including my dearest Honjo family. I had a great time. Because of the Senkaku Islands topic, the China-Japan relationship does not look good. Hope we can do something for this...



The 9th Class
Vu Quang Minh, Ph.D.
(Vietnam)
The University of Tokyo

I am Minh from Vietnam. Now I return to my country and work here. My current job is to pioneer electronic commerce business and electronic payment business into Vietnam market. My major is the information technology, and I plan to apply information technique into the development of my country. I am also looking for business chances with Japanese companies. Many Japanese companies are penetrating into Vietnam business environment and direct investments from Japan are increasing rapidly. Many Japanese love Vietnam and come here to live and work. There are many Japanese friends in my neighborhoods. I am very glad to meet them in supermarkets, at restaurants, at streets and have chances to speak Japanese with them. Business and culture exchanges between Japan and Vietnam are tightening and I would like to contribute my efforts to this progress.



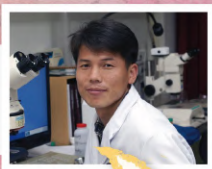
The 9th Class
Onphanhdala Phanhpakit, Ph.D.
(Laos)
Kobe University

I got a doctoral degree in Economics after my higher education and research career for 13 years in Japan. I came back in Laos last year, and I am currently working for Faculty of Economics and Business Management, National University of Laos as a director of graduate division. Based on how the Japanese education system is, I suggest quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement is necessary to develop Lao PDR's economy. Also, I act as a Board member of Japan Alumni of Laos (JAOL), and I also act as a President for Kobe University Alumni of Laos. I would like to help and build better relationship between Laos and Japan.



The 6th Class
Zhang Shengliang, Ph.D.
(China)
Tokyo Medical and Dental University

I have been working as a researcher in Pennsylvania, USA since I graduated from Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Now, I am living in Hershey, the sweetest place on earth, where I still missed the delicious Sushi, Sashimi, Ito En green tea (Oi Ocha) and many interesting and impressive things happened in Japan. I have learned how to make Sushi, Onigiri and Yakisoba using my developed recipes in my daily life. My cooking is never able to compare with the Sushi which I enjoyed in Sushi bar in Tokyo and the onigiri made by Kawashima-san on the trips in Japan. However, my kids and my wife like my cooking very much. When they enjoy Japanese foods I cook, they also like to listen to my story of study in Tokyo and in the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation. When my kids grow up, I believe, whenever they taste Oi Ocha, they remember their father's story. I do believe the flavor and taste of Ito en green tea will be the same as before or even much fresher.



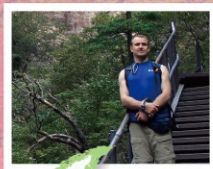
The 8th Class
Baek Seungho, Ph.D.
(Korea)
Yokohama National University

I am working for Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Korea. My major research is to understand the eco-physiology of phytoplankton (e.g., harmful algal bloom species) in the coastal area. Recently, my research focuses on the development of marine health index using planktonic organisms, mitigation of harmful algae, as well as risk assessment of marine ecosystem. I will be researching those topics more as it becomes international subject. Also, I would like to contribute building a better relationship between Korea and Japan. Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the President of Itoen and staff members of Honjo International Scholarship Foundation.



The 9th Class
Liu Xiao Yu, Ph.D.
(China)
Tokyo University of the Arts

China and Japan are neighboring countries sharing a long great history and the small ocean. We have been exchanging culture since older time, Tang era. I have been working for Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute for four years and am now an associate professor. I teach students every day, and sometimes create my own art works. I am so thankful for what I do now. I want to continue to strive to become the bridge of the future culture of Chinese and Japanese ceramic arts. I hope arts and cultural exchange in both countries will be deepened in the future. I feel passionate about creativity. If you have time, please come to visit Jingdezhen.



The 9th Class
Michal Bartko, Ph.D.
(Slovakia)
Tokyo Institute of Technology

I was very lucky that at a similar point in my life I was granted the Honjo scholarship. Meeting new people and making new 'friends for ever' is just a common result. But the most help, and my highest gratitude, was obviously with getting my degree. Hence influencing my further working positions. Here is the list: post-doc researcher still in Japan, then research director in the USA, assistant professor in my home country Slovakia and finally research professor in South Korea. Some might consider it interesting, some even impressive. For me, well, it's just a search. Everybody has one, right? The search of trying to settle down. And not to make this message too boring, I am going to say just one more thing. While at this search, my experience teaches me one thing I would like to share. Gambaru shika nai! And whenever possible, with the smile on one's face.



The 8th Class
Chih Fung Lam, Ph.D.
(Malaysia)
Keio University

Hi everyone, I am working as a SAP consultant at ABeam Consulting. Due to work, I have been in Dalian China for the past few months. As a guest from Malaysia, I enjoy traveling around Dalian and happy to meet with many colleagues from other places. This reminds me of the time under Honjo scholarship where we got chances to meet friends from all around the world. Let's cherish this chance of a great friendship!



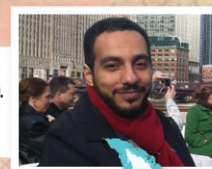
The 11th Class
Min Khine Maw, Ph.D.
(Myanmar)
Gifu University

I am a MBBS graduate from Myanmar. I came to Japan in 2004 and I did PhD in Medical Sciences from Gifu University Graduate School of Medicine. I am interested particularly in the changes of South East Asia Region. I joined AUCMS (Alliance University College of Medical Sciences) Pulau Penang and moved to Malaysia in 2010. Currently, I am a Senior Lecturer in NUMed (Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia) in Johor which is a branch of Newcastle University UK. As for now, I am committed in medical education. I am married to Guo Meiling, and father of two daughters (Meimin and Shanmin).



The 8th Class
Kay Lwintun, Ph.D.
(Myanmar)
The University of Tokyo

I am researching on the diseases and culture methodology of aquatic organisms at the Department of Zoology, University of Yangon, Myanmar. Because of the change in government, we are trying to raise the profile of the University of Yangon to ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) System. We have a lot to do to accomplish this task, but I am trying my best for future students. For current scholars, I would like to advice: (1) Please be kind. It makes people happy, and you will be happy too. (2) Because you chose to study, please do not give it up. It will be worth if you keep persevering. (3) Research is important, but you should make time for yourself to attend events and trips with Honjo family and going out with your friends from school. You are not here in Japan only for study; you should broaden your mind and eyes to see the world. Make friends from all over the world, and have a great time with them. Everything is once in a life time experience. Then you will see what the meaning of "study abroad" is.



The 12th Class
Alaa Mabrouk Omar, Ph.D.
(Egypt)
Kobe University

I am a doctor, a cardiologist. I had the most interesting and scientifically satisfying experience in my visit to Japan which lasted for five years. During that time I was a clinical cardiology fellow of Kobe University hospital, had a two-year advanced hands on training on cardiac catheterization and echocardiography, attained my PhD degree of cardiology and all of the aforementioned achievements are because of the help of Allah and then the great HSF. Above all, and most importantly, I have learned the Japanese sincere style of life. Despite all that, I have to admit I faced difficult times in Japan, most of which are because of the great cultural gap between my homeland and Japan. My message in short to all my dear Honjo fellows.... If you are succeeding in Japan, congrats. That's what you are here for. But, if you are facing a difficulty, or feel down and regretful, please reconsider and be patient, and try to find yourself a new start because new starts are always worth trying in Japan... Trust me in that, I have done it.

Guideline for Scholarship and Research Fellowship in 2013~2014

Scholarship Program

- **Scholarship for Foreign Students (The 18th Class)**
For Foreign students studying in Japanese graduate school
- **Scholarship for Japanese Domestic Students (The 9th Class)**
For Japanese students studying in Japanese graduate school
- **Scholarship for Japanese International Students (The 17th Class)**
For Japanese students studying in graduate school in overseas

Overseas Scholarship Program

- Jack Lewis Scholarship Program (University of Southern California)
- Professor Misawa Scholarship Program (University of Hawaii)
- JMSA Scholarship Program (Japanese Medical Society in America)
- JAA Scholarship Program (Japan Association in America)
- CUSSW Scholarship Program (Columbia University School of Social Work)

Research Fellowship Program

Food and Health Research Fellowship Program

This program is to support the research to clarify the efficiency of food or ingredient of food to maintain good health by means of assay targeting human beings or alternate assay without using animal.

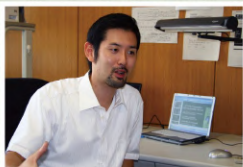
※The detailed information about the application is announced on our website. Application forms are available there, too.

※The application of Overseas Scholarship Program is operated by partnership bodies. Please visit their website for detailed information.

HISF WORKSHOP

In 2011, we started the series of an alumni meeting with a lecture spoken by an alumnus in order to strengthen friendship among HISF scholars. We will hold this meeting twice a year with an invited lecturer in various fields of research.

The First Workshop - July 3, 2011
Speaker: **Ryo Kohsaka, Ph.D.**
(The 4th Class)
Environmental Problem and Science
—Science-policy interface
and global biodiversity issues—



The Second Workshop - November 20, 2011
Speaker: **Housam Darwish, Ph.D.**
(The 10th Class)
Authoritarian Regimes and Mass
Movements: the Case of Egypt



The Third Workshop - July 8, 2012
Speaker: **Cheng Tang, Ph.D.**
(The 4th Class)
The Chinese Economy Following
the Global Financial Crisis
—Is expansion of domestic demand possible?—



Find Us on Facebook!

We have a group page account on Facebook. Find our page, Honjo International Scholarship Foundation. We make event announcements, and current scholars and alumni exchange information regarding their study, work, countries, and their private events as well. Please send us your request.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HISFhonjo/>

Send Us Your Information!

We are making all the Honjo scholars contact list on our website. Go to "Alumni Data Update" from our webpage and send us the form. You will need an ID and password to enter the scholars list. Let us know if you do not know them, but only Honjo Scholars and alumni are available for them.

<https://hisf.or.jp/update/form.html>

Timeline 2011-2012



Scholars NEWS

Mr. Lahiru awarded Outstanding Scientific Presentation

Mr. Lahiru Jayakody with Professor Hiroshi Kitagaki (Left)



Mr. Lahiru Jayakody (Faculty of Agriculture, Kagoshima University) has been awarded Outstanding Scientific Presentation at 13th International Conference of Yeast in USA by the International Commission on Yeast. This conference will be held once every four years, which is one of the most prestigious international conferences in the field of yeast. Only three were selected among over 200 presentations. It is an internationally honorable award. Congratulations to Mr. Lahiru!!

Honjo Scholar's Publication

「知っておきたい知的財産活用術 —地域が生き残るための知恵と工夫」GYOSEI, October, 2012
Author: **Ryo Kohsaka**
(Associate Professor, Human and Socio-Environmental Studies, Kanazawa University, The 4th class of HISF)
How will E-book and participation to TPP make the circumstances involved with intellectual property change? How can we protect local resources and utilize it as property? This book explains it well to the point.

「東アジアにおける後発近代化と社会政策 —韓国と台湾の医療保険政策」Minerva Shobo, April, 2011

Author: **Li Lianhua**
(Associate professor, Shiga University, The 5th class of HISF)
Medical policy in case of Korea and Taiwan, this book explains the characteristics of what the subsequent modernization and democratization has brought to social policy in East Asia, and talks about the possibility of a theory of social policy in East Asia including Japan.

「中東政治学」Yuhikaku, October, 2012 Author: **Keiko Sakai**
Co-author: **Housam Darwish**
(Institute of Developing Economies, The 10th class of HISF)
writes chapter 2, part 3 「エジプト政治の民主化と社会運動」
Describe the political change of major countries in the Middle East from the side of political systems, social movements, and international politics.

About Us

[Name]
Honjo International Scholarship Foundation
[Year of Establishment]
December 25, 1996
[President]
Ms. Teruko Honjo

[Purpose]
Honjo International Scholarship Foundation has been established to support outstanding students and researchers. To help them learn advanced technologies and improve their good intentions will serve as a bridge connecting Japan with the rest of the world in culture and mutual friendships.



1997
第1回忘年会 — 故小淵元総理がゲストに。
The 1st Year-End Party
— With former late Prime Minister Mr. Keizo Obuchi as a special guest



1998
伊藤園浜岡工場前 — 今も全く変わらない風景です。
At in front of Ito-En Hamaoka Plant — The view remains the same...



2006
お料理大会では女性が大活躍 — 東京国際交流館(お台場)で。
Cooking Contest with the ladies
— Tokyo International Exchange Center in Odaiba



2007
筑波大生のガイドで筑波山に登りました。
Climbing the Mt. Tsukuba.
— With students from University of Tsukuba as a mountain guide

16年間の軌跡 Journey of 16 years

1期生から16期生まで思い出の写真を集めました。懐かしい顔が見つかりますか？
Pictures from 1996-2012. Find someone looks familiar!!



2000
この年の忘年会には議員1年生の小淵優子議員の姿が。
The Year-End Party
— With the freshman Diet member Ms. Yuko Obuchi



2001
故本庄正則会長の優しい笑顔が懐かしいです。
With former late chairman Mr. Masanori Honjo.
— His friendly smile brings back memories



2008
福島県南会津のサマーキャンプ。
Camp in summer, in Minami Aizu, Fukushima



2009
京都で合気道体験。
Aikido experience — From Kyoto Trip



2003
工場見学の帰りに忍野八海で日本一の富士山を堪能。
After the Ito-En Plant Tour (at Oshinohakkai, Yamanashi)
— Enjoying the great view of Mt. Fuji



2005
野球チーム「グリーンソックス」始動。
Launching the Baseball Team, "Green Sox"



2010
静岡工場見学後の清水港クルーズ
Shimizu Port Cruise — From Ito-En Plant Tour



2012
京都建仁寺で坐禅を体験しました。
Zazen experience at the oldest Zen Temple, Kenninji, Kyoto
— From Kyoto trip