



Topics from the EAJ newsletter are listed up.

If you like to know further on particular topics, please contact EAJ Secretariat.

## **1. Emeritus Prof. Toyoki Kunitake was presented with the Cultural Medal**

Emeritus Prof. Toyoki Kunitake, Kyushu University was presented with the Cultural Medal in November 2014 for his great achievement of breaking new ground with “self-organizing molecules” in Chemistry.

## **2. Lecture Meeting organized by the Hokkaido Tohoku Branch**

The Hokkaido Tohoku Branch of the EAJ organized a lecture meeting on Friday 12 December in the Institute of Fluid Science (IFS), Tohoku University with about 60 attendees. Greetings from Prof. Hiroyuki Abe, EAJ Vice President and Prof. Shigeru Obayashi, Director of IFS and EAJ member, were followed by two lectures. Prof. Mami Tanaka, Department of Bioengineering and Robotics, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University, gave a talk focusing on “Efforts of School of Engineering of Tohoku University towards the increasing number of women researchers working in the area”, and “Research and Development of medical device with a tactile sensor.” Prof. Jun-ichi Kawamura, Director of the Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials (MRAM), Tohoku University gave a talk focusing on “ 14 year-history of MRAM” and “Development of a Safe Thin-film Lithium Battery using a Solid Electrolyte.”

## **3. Lecture Meeting organized by the Kyushu Branch**

The Kyushu Branch of the EAJ organized a lecture meeting on “Technology making a big leap from Kyushu to the World” jointly with the International Institute for Carbon Neutral Energy Research and the Plasmonics Research Core of Kyushu University and in cooperation with Graduate School of Engineering and Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering of Kyushu University. About 70 attended. Greeting of Prof. Sunao Yamada and Prof. Toyoki Kunitake, were followed by three lectures. Prof. Kazunari Sasaki, Director of International Research Center for Hydrogen Energy and of Next-Generation Fuel Cell Research Center, Kyushu University gave a talk on “Current status and future perspective of hydrogen energy.” Dr. Kazuo Sakurai, Professor of Faculty of Environmental Engineering, the University of Kitakyushu and Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of NapaJen Pharma, Inc. gave a talk on “Discovery of polysaccharide nucleic acid complex and its application for effective drug delivery system.”

Dr. Kazuaki Murakami, Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University and Executive Vice President of Institute of Systems, Information Technologies and Nanotechnologies, gave a talk on “Big Data and Open Data lead the way to the co-evolution society.”

#### **4. Symposium on “A future Strategy to Live on the Finite Earth”**

“Message for the Next Generation” project of the EAJ held a symposium, jointly with the NPO Mottainai Association, on “A future strategy to live on the finite earth” on 13 December 2014 at the University of Tokyo. The symposium tried to explore an answer to the question “What we should do in this turning point of civilization in human history, focusing on the posture of experts responsible for the future strategy and a practicable course of action for people living on the finite earth. Dr. Yoshinori Ishii, former President of National Institute for Environmental Studies, providing a big picture, talked about the importance of a unique future strategy for the Japanese people living in the Japanese islands foreseeing the end of oil-based civilization. Dr. Yukiko Kada, the former governor of Shiga Prefecture, stressed from her eight-year service that researchers should face the fact that life, environment and consideration for the next generation are put less priority in national political scenes in Japan and that the local self-government should cover the shortcomings and build a sense of safety.

#### **5. Lecture Meeting on “Towards Creation of Innovation –Message from Silicon Valley”**

“Meta Engineering” project of the EAJ organized a lecture meeting on 21 January 2015 inviting Dr. Norihisa Suzuki, President of Zaxel, as a lecturer. The lecturer’s professional career includes Director of the IBM Research-Tokyo, professors in the University of Tokyo and Carnegie Mellon University, mainly based in Silicon Valley in the US. The theme of the lecture was “Towards Creation of Innovation--- Message from Silicon Valley”, in which he compared PARC, spring of innovation in the west coast, with IBM and concluded that Steve Jobs and Bill Gates are “a marketer” rather than “an innovator.” He also illustrated a comparison between the “silicon valley” and “Route 128” pointing out that intra networks worked well in the east coast while broad network in certain fields functioned well in the west coast. In the end, he made the following suggestions for enhancing Japan’s innovation capability: 1) to help the young generation learn “good/significant work” and “bad/insignificant work”, 2) to have a system of letting ideas turn out fruitful and 3) state-backed recognition of innovation.

#### **6. New Year Party 2015**

The EAJ’s New Year Party was held on 20 January 2015 at the Hotel JAL city Tamachi. Young researchers who participated in the JAFOE symposium in June 2014 were invited to associate with the EAJ members and President Komiyama presented “Best Speakers Award” to Associate Prof. Yoshihiro Kawahara, University of Tokyo and to Assistant Prof. Yoko Terasawa, Tsukuba University.

#### **7. Emeritus Prof. Yutaka Takahashi was awarded the 2015 Japan Prize**

Emeritus Prof. Yutaka Takahashi, University of Tokyo and an EAJ member, was awarded the 2015 Japan Prize for his creating an innovative concept for watershed management leading to mitigation of water disaster.

## **8. New EAJ Members**

**Mitsuteru Inoue**, Vice President, Toyohashi University of Technology

**Toyoharu Nawa**, Professor, Hokkaido University

**Nobuaki Ogawa**, Vice President, Akita University

**Yoshihiro Tomita**, Emeritus Professor, Kobe University