

## JSPS Guidance Seminar and BJSPSAA Executive Meeting Held in Bangladesh



On 29 November, the JSPS Bangkok Office held a Guidance Seminar at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was co-hosted with the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association (BJSPSAA). Under appropriate security by local police amidst a security warning by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the seminar enjoyed the vigorous participation of more than 120 people, mainly young researchers.

The seminar was moderated by BJSPSAA member Dr. Tuhin Suvra Roy, professor, SAU Department of Agronomy. BJSPSAA general secretary Dr. Nur Ahamed Khondaker delivered an opening address. After members of the Bangkok Office introduced JSPS's international programs, SAU vice-chancellor Prof. Kamal Uddin Ahamed talked about the university's MoUs with several Japanese counterpart institutions and expressed high expectation for further academic collaboration between Japan and Bangladesh.

The last speaker, BJSPSAA president Dr. M. Afzal Hossain, who chaired the seminar, introduced the BJSPSAA's menus of activities and spoke about the role of agriculture in solving several of the nation's problems, including rapid population increase and climate change. He said that a lot of young Bangladeshi researchers wish to do research in Japan because of the high level of its academic

and research facilities. In a Q&A session about JSPS international programs, the participants asked several questions on such matters as a follow-up program for Bangladeshi research conducted in Japan and the sharing of information on the activities of JSPS alumni associations in other countries. At the following reception, the participants enjoyed hearing firsthand about alumni members' experiences in Japan.

In the alumni association's executive committee meeting held on 28 November in the office of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the alumni executives discussed with members of the Bangkok Office details of the upcoming International Academic Seminar to be held in February in Bangladesh.

For more information about the JSPS Guidance Seminar and BJSPSAA executive committee meeting, please visit the following sites:

[http://jsps-th.org/jsps\\_en/2016/11/28/1253/](http://jsps-th.org/jsps_en/2016/11/28/1253/)

[http://jsps-th.org/jsps\\_en/2016/11/29/1239/](http://jsps-th.org/jsps_en/2016/11/29/1239/)

JSPS Bangkok Office



### Essay by a Former Fellow Dr. Zsuzsanna Kemenesi

In-depth research and analysis in the field of material arts and cultural arts is my field of specialty. Beyond the fine art scene, various forms of the cultural arts, found in local religions, ideologies and craftsmanship, embody significant issues when we discuss current societies. During my JSPS fellowship for eight months between 2008 and 2009, I had irreplaceable opportunities to study the collections and curatorial concepts of a series of world-class art institutions in Japan. The experience immensely helped me cultivate my understanding of the relationship between the arts and culture.

Prior to my academic venture in Japan, I had since 2005 held a teaching position in Hungary as an associate professor in the Media Art Institute at the University of Kaposvár. Visual culture, aesthetics of photography, cultural anthropology and visual communication were my field. I conducted comparative analyses in the forms of art across local, regional, national, international, and multinational levels. During my tenure in that post, I received a grant from the International Partnership Among Museums, a program of the American Association of Museums. Under it, I conducted collaborative work with a museum curator, Dr. Steve Yates, who helped me further pursue my academic career.

The mentorship of Steve Yates opened the door for me to receive

a highly rewarding fellowship from the JSPS to pursue my postdoctoral research on "The Synthesis of Visual and Verbal Knowledge in Art and Communication," which I carried out also with support from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. My research host during that tenure was the late Dr. Wani Yoshitaka, professor at the University of Creation; Art, Design, Music & Social Work in Gunma, Japan. The publications I accomplished during that time included a comparison of Japanese and Australian photo media and an essay on the Good Design Expo in Tokyo.



Photo by Sándor Benkő

The new type of theoretical approach I learned in Japan has certainly helped me to further nurture my academic career back in Hungary. At an annual meeting of the Hungarian Psychological Association, I recently presented the latest developments in my field at a scientific session titled: "Constitute Imagination—Material and Cultural Arts." My aim is to organize the endless interpretation of phenomena surrounding us in the changing world. I think that the language of art and science should be unlimited and freely unleashed in today's altering world, though I unchangeably cherish the values I acquired during my JSPS fellowship tenure.

Dr. Kemenesi's website: <http://www.infranesia.com>