

Activity report on the 1st Regional Meeting of Asian Young Scientists Association – Status and Future of Young Scientists in Asia

The 1st Networking Meeting of Asian Young Scientists was held on February 13th and 14th 2014 under the auspices of the National Young Academy of Japan, for the purpose of promoting communication and networking among top scientists from Asian Nations. The idea of organizing this meeting was initiated in the 3rd General Assembly Meeting of Global Young Academy in Halle/Saale, Germany (May 15-18, 2013) among Dr. Shoji Komai, Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa, and Dr. Wibool Piyawattanametha. With the financial support from the Science Council of Japan, Dr. Komai (Chairperson of Young Academy of Japan) realized the 1st meeting in Japan with help from Dr. Mitsunobu R. Kano and Dr. Yuji Nishiyama. There were 21 young scientists from 12 Asian countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan) participating for the two-day program.

On the first day, Dr. Aftab Ahmed gave a presentation entitled “Research in Asia: Strengths and Weaknesses” in which he indicated how Asia had low contribution in research and innovation to the world, in spite of the fact that the region has the largest number of population. This talk aroused lively comments and discussions on the necessity to improve the current state of research and innovation in Asia. After the talk session, the participants had two site visits namely University of Tokyo and Miraikan.

The second day began with 3 scientific talks for interdisciplinary research exchanges. Those presentations are “Infrastructure for transition to knowledge-based economy in Kazakhstan,” by Dr. Kassymkhan Kapparov, “Three Nucleon Forces: Story of old but new nuclear forces,” by Dr. Kimiko Sekiguchi, and “Advance in Light Microendoscopy,” by Dr. Wibool Piyawattanametha.

In the later half of this day, the assembly had a series of fruitful group discussions on the actual and future status of young scientists in Asia. They tried to share and compare their experiences especially around the themes on science & technology policies, career tracks for young scientists, future of young academies in this region, and interdisciplinary research. Then, the participants pointed out the necessity of an in-depth data analysis on the status of young scientists in Asian regions to understand more precisely their current situations and problems, following the same kind of initiative taken by the GYA for the international survey on the status of young scientists. At the end of this session, they agreed to establish a regular (annual) meeting for the Asian Young Scientist Association and to continue the discussion on the issues specifically related to Asia.