



Bulgaria-Japan Research Collaboration for Sustainable Development



Date: 19th March, 2013
Venue: Science Council of Japan (SCJ)

Highlights

On March 19, 2013, Science Council of Japan (SCJ) and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) collaboratively held their Bilateral Conference “Bulgaria-Japan Research Collaboration for Sustainable Development”.

BAS and SCJ concluded “Agreement of Cooperation” on March 30, 2012, with the purpose to promote cooperation between the two Academies and also to promote Basic and Applied Sciences as well as Humanities and Social Sciences. In the Agreement of Cooperation, Energy Recourses and Energy Efficiency; Nanosciences, New Materials and Technologies; Biomedicine and Quality of Life; as well as Climate Changes and Risks are specified as the areas of cooperation to put special attention. Per this Agreement of Cooperation, BAS raised its concrete research proposals.

Among those proposals, SCJ identified some of them, which relates to a key concept, namely “Sustainability.” After consulting with the BAS side, SCJ hosted a kick-off conference “Bulgaria-Japan Research Collaboration for Sustainable Development” with the delegates from BAS, Japanese and Bulgarian researchers, engineers and specialists of Japanese industries and related organizations, and SCJ council members, with honorable guests from the Bulgarian Embassy in Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

In the opening session, Professor Takashi Onishi, President of SCJ and Professor Stefan Todorov Hadjitodorov, Adviser to the President and Former Secretary General of BAS delivered opening remarks. Then, H. E. Mr. Georgi Vassilev, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Japan and H. E. Mr. Makoto Ito, Ambassador for TICAD V / Ambassador, Special Envoy for UN affairs (former Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Bulgaria) were welcomed as guests and gave remarks.

Then the session has shifted to the presentations on successful examples of bilateral business relations between the two countries. Mr. Yasuo Higuchi of Meiji Co. Ltd. presented their yogurt marketing history in Japan as an example of food related business, then Mr. Shinichiro Abe of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. presented their first wind farm project in Bulgaria, which is also an example of Joint Implementation of Kyoto Mechanism as an example in the energy industry. As the last presenter of the session in the morning, Mr. Kiyoshi Saito of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science introduced the funding systems for the bilateral projects between the two countries. Their presentations attracted the attention of the participants and several questions and comments were raised.

Panels by YAZAKI Corporation as an example of manufacturing industry and by Tokushukai Group about Tokuda Hospitals in Sofia were also exhibited at the conference room.

In the afternoon, the six BAS researchers were divided into two groups for running Parallel Session A “Sustainable Development” and Parallel Session B “Sustainable Management and Usage of Biological Materials”. In the parallel sessions, the BAS researchers introduced their ideas of research collaborations, to which relevant researchers in Japan delivered their comments. Following that, there were free discussions about possibilities of bilateral collaborations.

The conference completed with the closing remarks by Professor Damyan Nikolov Damyanov, Vice-President of BAS.

This Bilateral Conference successfully concluded and accomplished its purpose to play the role to be a bridge among researchers of the two countries. SCJ sincerely hopes the Conference will result in possible new partnership and stimulate further and active bilateral research collaboration.