

STRENGTHENING LINKS WITH JAPAN ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



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Japan and UK as partners

Japan is vital to the UK economy. More cars were built in Sunderland last year than in the whole of Italy, thanks to Japan. Over 140,000 British jobs are due to Japanese investment. More than half of all UK Internet traffic goes through Japanese servers in the UK. More Japanese investment comes to the UK than any other European country.

And the Japanese market, which was closed a generation ago, is now open for business. JAL, the flag carrier, bought Airbus over Boeing last year for the first time – half the content of all the 31 planes is built in

the UK. UK expertise is helping with Fukushima clean-up. And the 2020 Olympics is a major opportunity for British firms who helped make London 2012 a great success, in areas like cyber security and design.

It is not only a commercial relationship. We share a commitment to rules based economic governance and international security. We work together to protect an internet free of government diktat, to protect intellectual property, and the rule of law in commercial disputes. We also share a commitment to harnessing science and research to tackle global challenges like infectious diseases, dementia, resource security and climate change.

Universities open up to international collaboration

Japan's universities are also opening up to international links. A programme of reform aims to produce outstanding talent, research excellence and innovation at a global level. This will bring further opportunities for relationships to be forged between UK and Japan that will

lead to even more knowledge exchange and research collaboration. The UK has a strong reputation in Japan for its world class universities and as an international hub for research, innovation and personnel exchange.

Like the UK, Japan recognises that scientific research and innovation are key to economic success. Science, technology and innovation form a key pillar of Japan's growth strategy and the Prime Minister himself chairs the Government's Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.

The quality of scientific and technological research and development in Japan is high and our two nations have a similar outlook on the societal value of science with many areas of complementary strengths. The Nobel prizes won in 2012 by Prof Shinya Yamanaka and Prof John Gurdon for their work on induced pluripotent stem cells is a good example but our researchers are working together in many other areas. Projects

supported by the UK's Science and Innovation Network team in Japan are helping develop a broad range of collaboration: from **cutting edge research** in new materials, synthetic biology; **technology opportunities** such as big data for healthcare or optical imaging for neuroscience; **security and sustainability** research on manufacturing disaster resilience and cybersecurity.

Aside from researcher links, strong institutional level relationships also exist. The strong and enduring historical links that University College London has with Japan, were celebrated last year on the 150th anniversary of the Choshu Five's arrival in Britain. These 5



young Japanese noblemen endured a perilous 135-day sea journey to come to Victorian-era London and study at UCL. On their return to Japan, they went on to form the core of a new Japanese government, leading the nation's transformation to one of the world's foremost technological powers.

Japan-UK Universities conference on education and research

On Thursday 1 May 2014, to mark the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the UK, the Japanese Embassy in London held a Japan-UK Universities Conference for Collaboration in Research and Education co-hosted by UCL, supported by British Council, JSPS London,

MEXT in Japan and the Science and Innovation Network. Attended by senior representatives from 14 Japanese universities and 16 UK universities, this conference was an unprecedented landmark event, with discussions on a wide range of issues surrounding research and education. It was also a valuable opportunity to deepen and develop collaboration and cooperation between universities of the two countries.

As well as various presentations and panel discussions, there was a roundtable discussion attended by Prime Minister Abe. Participants discussed measures to promote exchange of

students and young researchers between Japanese and UK universities, consideration of a framework for multilateral (rather than bilateral) collaboration, and cooperation between Japanese and UK universities in facing global challenges such as ageing societies. The British Council's research and education network for knowledge economy initiatives, known as RENKEI for short (the Japanese word for collaboration), has been helping to develop and extend these links.

Attended by Ministers Ed Davey and David Willetts, the conference also provided a venue for presenting UK-Japan agreements on climate change and energy, and in particular

nuclear cooperation, including the announcement of new joint fund for nuclear safety research and an agreement between TEPCO FDEC and NDA & Sellafield Ltd.

The conference was a valuable opportunity to deepen and develop collaboration and cooperation between universities of the two countries. Participants agreed the Joint Announcement at the Conference which pledges to hold regular follow-up meetings regarding both research and education in order to continue and develop these areas.

Further information:
<http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/event/2014/05/uni.html>

PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION POLICIES: WHERE ARE WE NOW?



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The words "hope" and "change" were pervasive in Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential campaign, and they are part of the narrative in today's America. Although not typically a high-profile campaign issue, science enjoyed a relatively strong stature in 2008. Of the science issues that he

discussed during the campaign, three have taken a place at the head of the class, and in some cases, with significant capital investments.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change was the first scientific issue that the Administration addressed, with the announcement of three-high level appointments even before Obama's 2009 inauguration. These had backgrounds in climate research and signalled a shift from the Bush administration, whom many viewed as indifferent to such issues. The trio of John Holdren, Science Advisor to the President; Jane Lubchenco, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and Nancy Sutley,

Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, gave greater visibility to climate research and policy.

In 2009, the Administration strongly supported the Congressional initiative to begin a National Climate Service (NCS) within NOAA, similar to the National Weather Service, which would provide climate data free of charge and to issue weather forecasts. Contrary to the Administration's expectation, the effort failed due to Congressional refusal to approve the budget for NCS for FY 2012.

The NCS's setback was not terminal. In 2013, the Administration set its direction of travel on climate policy with the Climate Action Plan. The CAP is a high-level policy document

which contains one research-relevant section. This lays out action items for the US government that ensure the United States is prepared for the impacts of climate change. Notably, the CAP does not call directly for increased spending, but does recommend significant coordination among federal agencies in areas like resilience and green buildings.

OPEN DATA

Open data was the second scientific issue that the Obama Administration focused on with the appointment in early 2009 of Aneesh Chopra and Vivek Kundra, Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Officer. This marked the first time either position existed on a national level. Kundra was tasked with