

## [Mini Review]

## The fifth HOPE meeting with Nobel laureates

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## Abstract

HOPE Meeting is a special program offered by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for excellent doctoral students and young researchers in the Asia-Pacific region. During the Meetings, the participants share a living space with Nobel Laureates and attend a variety of programs. The aim of this meeting is to inspire and

motivate the participants to be excellent scientists.

It was a very valuable experience for me to spend five days at the 5th HOPE Meeting, interacting closely with many young investigators and Nobel Laureates. My experiences at the HOPE Meeting greatly inspired my research.

## What are the HOPE Meetings with Nobel Laureates?

HOPE Meetings give opportunities to excellent doctoral students and young researchers selected from the Asia-Pacific region to participate in interdisciplinary discussions with Nobel Laureates and other distinguished scientists working at the frontiers of knowledge. It is hoped that the experience of the students gained at the meeting will inspire and motivate them to become excellent scientists and enable them to take on the mantle of contributing to the future of science and technology in the region (JSPS Home Page).

## Outline of the 5th HOPE Meeting

The 5th HOPE Meeting was held between February 26 and March 2, 2013, at the Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa (Tokyo, Japan). This was the first time the HOPE Meetings had selected “Life Sciences (and related fields)” as the Subjected Field. The organizer of the 5th HOPE Meeting was Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and it was held under the auspices of the Yomiuri Shimbun (newspaper). The official language of the meeting was English.

The participants were 104 doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers from the following countries/areas in the Asia-Pacific region including Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore,

South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The ratio of participants' nationality is shown in Figure 1. During the Meeting, hotel rooms were shared by two or three participants who came from different countries. The research fields of participants were diverse. Only I was chosen from the dental field. The most common participants were doctoral students or young researchers in the Life Sciences. The number of Japanese participants was 25. The institutions of the Japanese participants are shown in Figure 2. In this Meeting, many Japanese who are studying abroad attended as participants. The male-female ratio of participants is shown in Figure 3. Compared with the previous data of HOPE Meetings (JSPS Home Page), the number of female participants was higher in this Meeting. The Subjected Fields of the 1<sup>st</sup> to

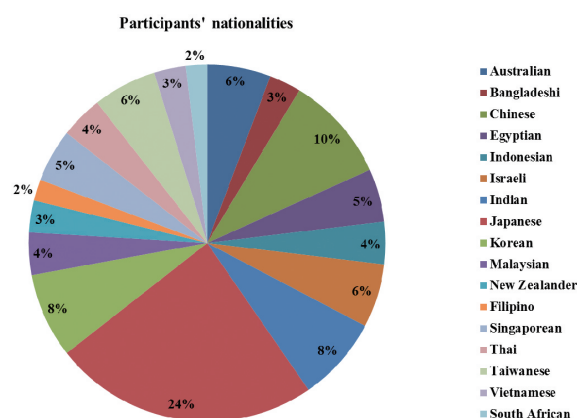


Figure 1. Participants' nationalities (percentages) in the 5th HOPE Meeting.

受付：平成25年4月5日 受理：平成25年4月23日

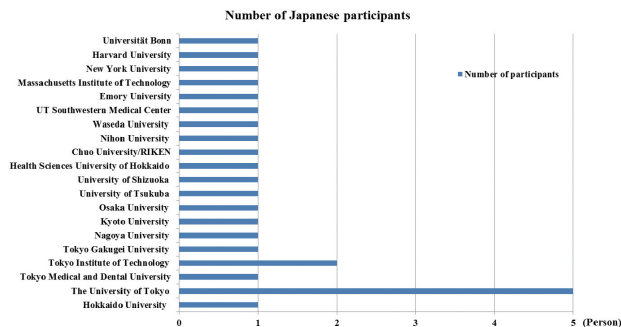


Figure 2. Institutions of Japanese participants in the 5th HOPE Meeting.

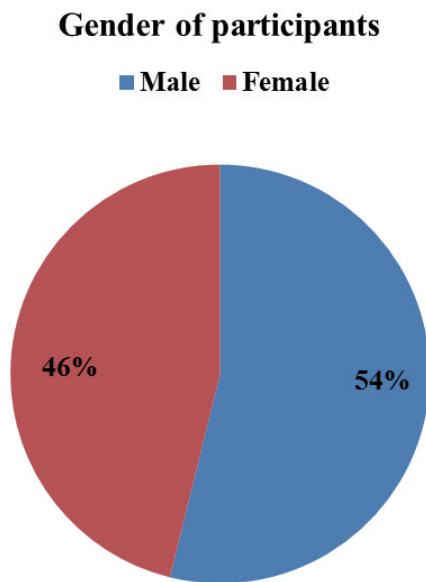


Figure 3. Gender of participants (percentages) in the 5th HOPE Meeting.

4<sup>th</sup> HOPE Meetings were Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (1st), Chemistry (2nd, 4th), and Physics (and related fields, 3rd), and there were few female researchers in the other Subject Fields. Since many female researchers are playing important roles in the Life Sciences, the selection of the Life Sciences as the Subject Field of the 5<sup>th</sup> HOPE Meeting provided the opportunity to attend for many women from the Life Sciences arena as well as myself from the Dental area.

The 5th HOPE Meeting was attended by the following lecturers : Prof. Susumu TONEGAWA (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 1987), Prof. Mario Renato CAPECCHI (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2007), Prof. Hideki SHIRAKAWA (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2000), Prof. Ryoji NOYORI (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2001), Prof. Aharon Jehuda CIECHANOVER (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2004), Prof. Leo ESAKI (Nobel Laureate in Physics 1973), Prof. Makoto KOBAYASHI (Nobel Laureate in Physics 2008), Prof. Gunnar QUIST (Former Secretary General, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), and Dr. Suzanne SHALE (Senior Researcher/Fellow of Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford).

**Program**

The program for the Fifth HOPE Meeting with Nobel

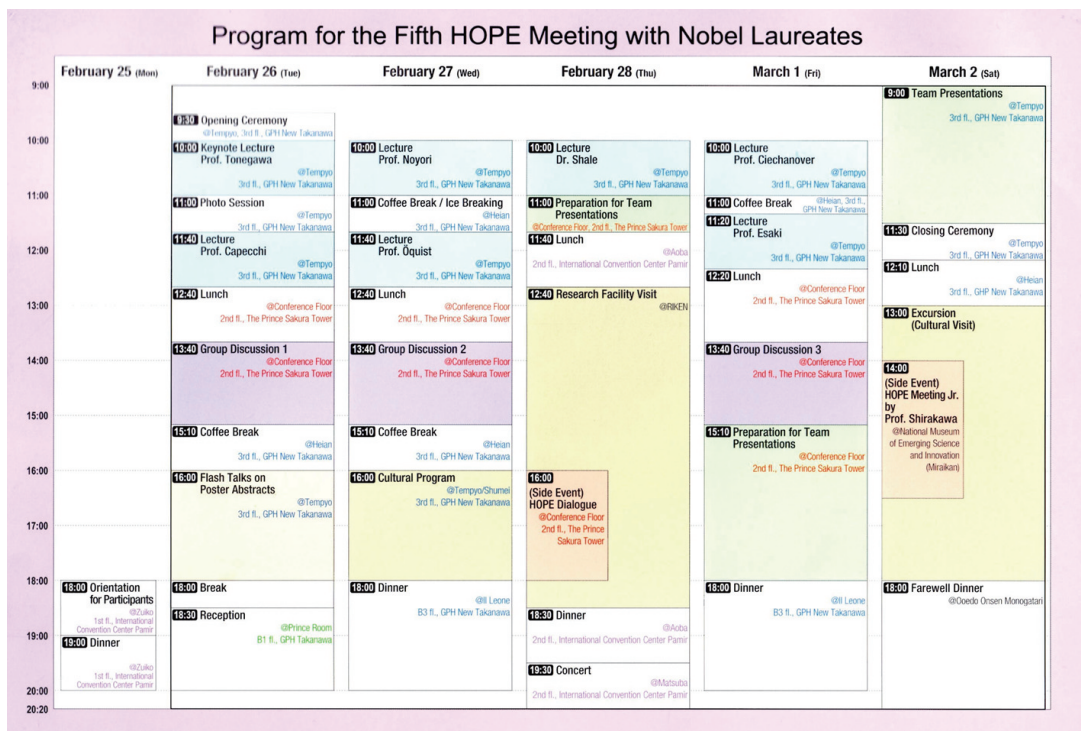


Figure 4. Program for the 5th HOPE Meeting.



Figure 5. Flash Talks on Poster Abstracts.

Laureates is shown in Figure 4. We had a tight schedule during this Meeting.

To enable interactions with the Nobel Laureates, seven Lectures and three Group Discussions were scheduled. Each lecture lasted an hour including a Q&A period and each group discussion lasted 90 minutes. Discussion groups of about 20 members each were set up based on the participants' registration information. I attended three group discussions with Prof. Leo ESAKI's, Dr. Suzanne SHALE's, and Prof. Makoto KOBAYASHI. The lectures of Nobel Laureates and group discussions with them were wonderful opportunities for me, and I have great memories of them. Especially, I could ask my questions directly to Nobel Laureates and in English which greatly strengthened my confidence in using English in the group discussions.

In Flash Talks on Poster Abstracts, one-minute oral presentations on poster abstracts were delivered by all the participants individually (Figure 5). Each participant talked about their abstract clearly and plainly using fluent English. At first, I was very nervous about discussing my poster abstracts in English in front of these excellent participants and Nobel Laureates from all over the world. But, I was filled with a feeling of accomplishment after my presentation.

On the final day of this Meeting, the participants gave their team presentations in the 5th HOPE Meeting, and it was the most impressive accomplishment. On the final day of this Meeting, the participants gave their team presentations. All the participants were divided into 12 groups from Team A to Team L by the Secretariat before the Meeting. I belonged to Team I. Each team member was requested to contact the other members of



Figure 6. A part of a power point slide from Team I's presentation.



Figure 7. The finale of Team I's presentation.

their team and discuss the topic, style, and method of team presentation before and during the HOPE Meeting. Life Science in Global Future was given as a main theme of the presentation. Also, each team had to select Key Terms from following categories : new discoveries, creative research, researchers' roles within society, fusion and linkage with other fields, frontiers of human knowledge, global environment, energy issues, life ethics, and biodiversity. I belonged to Team I, and our team selected "creative research" as the key term and Role Play with Power Point Slide as the presentation style (Figure 6). We discussed and practiced the contents of the presentation until late every night. Sometimes we got into conflicts with each other. However, through discussion and practice with our team members, we developed strong and trusting relations with each other. I am sure that this connection will continue in the future. We are keeping in touch with each other using Facebook and e-mail now (Figure 7).

### After the 5th HOPE Meeting

I learnt many things through the course of the 5th HOPE Meeting. I learnt many things. First, I discovered that one must be aggressive to be a good global researcher. If the participants in the 5th HOPE Meeting were not aggressive, we could not attend this kind of Meeting, nor make the valiant relationship in this Meeting. I think many Japanese are not good at being aggressive as compared to foreign people. It may be our national character : we even have a concept in Japan called “the virtue of modesty.” However, five days of the Meeting has made me firmly believe that we should state our intent clearly to be a good researcher, scientist, and professional.

Second, I found that my ideas and indeed my life changed by interacting with great people. Third, I realized that we have to understand the world to be a good researcher, and we have to meet many highly motivated researchers from a variety of fields. I was very happy to meet many highly motivated young investigators from many countries including Japan, and I was inspired by them in the Meeting.

I spent five full and intense days in close association with many young investigators (who are now my good friends) and Nobel Laureates. If I had not attended this HOPE Meeting, I would not have had these inspiring and life-changing experiences. I deeply appreciate having had this opportunity to attend the Fifth HOPE Meeting. And I would like to contribute to making these HOPE Meetings even better in the future. Also, I strongly recommend students in the Postgraduate School of the Health Sciences University of Hokkaido to grab the chance to apply for this program. Through it, I believe you will have valuable and inspiring experiences that you will remember forever.

### Acknowledgements

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### Reference

JSPS Home Page ; [http : //www.jsps.go.jp/hope/index.html](http://www.jsps.go.jp/hope/index.html)



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