

Successful Australia-Japan collaboration and student mentoring

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Australia and Japan have a long history of collaboration in Antarctic research. In 2008 a firm commitment was made by both countries' then Prime Ministers to enhance collaboration in Antarctic climate change studies (http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/australia/visit/0806_ks.html). Since then a series of Joint Workshops were held (1st in 2009, and the 2nd in 2012) and agreed to maximise the two countries' Antarctic research efforts and formed the basis of the development of future project proposals from each country (Kawaguchi et al. 2014).

The 3rd WS of the series was recently held (6-7 August 2015) to gather information on aspirations for future plans from various research areas to further streamline coordination, review capabilities and capacities, give some practical thoughts, and to streamline multinational collaborations. Possible synergies for the future plans between disciplines were identified, and the workshop marked a major step forward streamlining the Antarctic science coordination between Australia and Japan.

The outcomes of the series of abovementioned workshops were reported to the 15th Australia-Japan Joint Science and Technology Consultative meeting held in Sydney in 25 August 2015, one of the high-level bilateral meetings to identify and endorse priority areas for collaboration across all scientific fields. Our report was received favourably especially due to the progress in the K-axis campaign (See Andrew Constable's abstract for further details) as well as our framework to further progress prioritisation, coordination, and research platform sharing for future collaboration.

Successful collaboration all comes down to the people. In the series of the abovementioned meetings the importance of recruiting young scientists through mutual cooperation was suggested to be the key to the continuation of long-term international collaboration across generation.

In relation to this, a letter of agreement for cooperation and collaboration in Antarctic Research, have recently been signed between Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, National Institute of Polar Research, and Australian Antarctic Division. This includes an agreement to make every effort to help enhance opportunities for students and early-career scientists of all parties to establish international links to extend the horizons of their research by exchanging or deploying scientists and students to labs and cruises under existing projects wherever appropriate to establish links between researchers. It is also worthwhile noting that Prime Ministers Abbott and Abe, in 2014, renewed their commitment to promote two-way student and research mobility between Australia and Japan to deepen mutual understanding and underpin further growth in the relationship (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-07-08/joint-statement-prime-minister-abe-special-strategic-partnership-21st-century>).

In our talk we will explore the ways forward to realise the student exchange as well as and suggest possible arrangements for students' co-supervision between Australia and Japan.

References

Kawaguchi, Motoyoshi, Watanabe, Odate, and Fukuchi, Report on 1st and 2nd Joint Workshops on Australian and Japanese Collaboration in Antarctic Science and related achievements, Nankyoku Shiryo (Antarctic Record), Vol. 58, No. 1, 71-88, 2014.