

The 3rd Norway-Japan Academic Network

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The 3rd Norway-Japan Academic Network Seminar was held on February 6, 2019 at the Research Council of Norway (RCN) in Oslo, Norway. Since 2016, this seminar has been jointly organized by the JSPS Stockholm Office and RCN once a year. The aim of the seminar was to promote academic exchange between Norway and Japan. In total, 40 participants joined the seminar, including Japanese researchers based in Norway, JSPS fellows as well as RCN fellows who have studied in Japan. Science programs that are useful for promoting academic exchange between the two countries have been introduced by officers from JSPS, RCN and government officials from the two countries.

I was invited to attend and give a speech on my experience and research at the seminar since I was based at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies in Oslo from September 2018 to March 2019 as a visiting research fellow. This fellowship has been supported by the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (Fostering Joint International Research)).

The seminar started with opening remarks by Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director of the JSPS Stockholm Office. Ms. Julie Christiansen, Senior Adviser to the International Division of the RCN, followed to give a speech about strategies for future research. She addressed that academic collaboration between Norway and Japan is still limited but expects further cooperation. Mr. Arne Haugen, Senior Adviser to the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku), introduced student exchange programs. Mr. Takenari Yamamori from the Embassy of Japan in Norway talked about the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for international students.

As one of the invited speakers, I mentioned my experiences at the Barents Research Institute (2008-2009) funded by the Norwegian Government Scholarship and at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (2018-2019).



Assoc. Prof. Ohnishi during his lecture

I also talked about my current research theme of the Arctic international politics. Prof. Ivar Rønnestad from University of Bergen gave a talk about his previous research experience at Kyoto University as well as his recent research collaborations with other researchers and students. Assoc. Prof. Alexander Karl Rothkopf from University of Stavanger addressed his experience at the University of Tokyo and his research of modern theoretical physics in plain words. Dr. Anders Øverby, who is the Chair of the to be established JSPS Alumni Club in Norway, spoke about his experience of studying in Japan. He also described the contents and historical background of the club together with its recent activities. At the end of the seminar, a panel discussion was held by the four speakers.

Many Japanese visiting research fellows who are based in Norway attended this seminar. It gave me an opportunity to expand my research network, which was a precious moment. I am greatly indebted to the JSPS Stockholm Office and RCN for organizing the seminar and allowing me to join this event.



Assoc. Prof. Ohnishi, Assoc. Prof. Karl Rothkopf, Prof. Rønnestad and Dr. Øverby during the panel discussion