The Matsumae International Foundation

NEWSLETTER

【公益財団法人 松前国際友好財団　会報】

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Message from Chairperson 理事長メッセージ

Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the MIF

松前国際友好財団創立45周年を迎えて

Chairperson
Toshiaki HASHIMOTO
松前国際友好財団　理事長
橋本敏明

The Matsumae International Foundation (MIF) celebrated its 45th anniversary in June 2024. When we commemorated our 40th anniversary in 2019 by having a reception and the publication of a commemorative magazine, we promised to develop further MIF's activities. However, the global pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 made it difficult to implement our program, and our financial assets also deteriorated. Although the outbreak of infectious diseases has since been alleviated, the international commu-

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公益財団法人松前国際友好財団は、2024年6月に創立45周年を迎えました。5年前の2019年度に創立40周年記念事業(レセプションと記念誌発行)を挙行し、さらなる飛躍を期しましたが、周知のように新型コロナウィルス感染症パンデミックの影響で事業の実施が困難となり資産運用状況も厳しくなりました。その後、感染症は収まったものの国際社会の分断と対立が進み、紛争や戦争も勃発しています。本財団も以前のように自由で安全な国際交流を展開することができず、何が起こるか分からない危機的状況をにらみながら慎重に、これまでに培った信頼を大切にして活動を継続しています。

本年(2025年)は第二次世界大戦後80年という節目の年です。戦争の世紀と言われる20世紀に、核兵器を開発した人間は平和共存への知恵を絞り、多様性と協調性を尊重する組織や制度などを作って戦争を回避してきたのですが、昨今の国際情勢を見ると危惧の念を抱かざるをえません。そうであればこそ、私は本財団定款の条文(目的)に記した「人種、性別、宗教、思想を問わず、優れた学術的資質を備えた外国人研究者に対し」との認識が重要であると確信します。本財団の活動は小

nity has increasingly divided, and international intentions have increased, which has resulted in conflicts and wars. The MIF is also unable to develop free and safe international exchanges as much as before. We value the trust we have built over the years and continue our activities cautiously, keeping an eye on the critical situation, not knowing what may happen.

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. During the 20th century, often referred to as the century of war, those who developed nuclear weapons made efforts to foster peaceful coexistence and avoided war by establishing organizations and systems that promote diversity and cooperation. However, given the current global situation, we cannot help but are deeply concerned about the future. This is precisely why I am convinced that it is crucial to remind that the MIF's Articles of Incorporation state, our activities are “To overseas researchers of outstanding academic calibers, regardless of race, gender, religion, or ideology.” Although the MIF's activities are small in scale, it is committed to a significant mission: fostering international friendship and goodwill. The number of MIF fellows has reached 880 in 120 countries worldwide. I am confident that you are all recognized for this mission.

In September 2024, Dr. Tatsuro Matsumae, the former Chairperson of the Board of Directors, who strongly encouraged us at the reception of our 40th anniversary, passed away. Although I cannot shake off the feeling of loneliness, I would like to overcome my sadness and keep the following words of encouragement in my heart. (The commemorative magazine “The 40 Years of Progress”, contributed by Dr. Tatsuro Matsumae).

“I believe that the mission of the MIF is to carry on the ideas of our founder and to continue to light the fire of conscience of researchers in an international situation where conflicts and chaos continue unabated and to make steady efforts to pave the way for world peace.”

International researchers’ hearts of conscience, not physical force, are our foundation’s light of hope. We cannot help but believe that their conscience, regardless of race, gender, religion, or ideologies, will light the way to peaceful coexistence.

規模ですが、国際友好親善に貢献するという大きな目的、つまり使命を有しています。世界各国、各地域の研究奨学者数は120ヶ国、880人にのぼっています。皆さんは、この目的をよく理解されていると思います。

昨年（2024年）9月、40周年記念事業の際に私たちを力強く激励してくださった元理事長の松前達郎博士が逝去されました。寂寥感を拭うことはできませんが、悲しみを乗り越えて、次の激励の言葉を胸に刻みたいと思います（『40年のあゆみ』寄稿文）。

「本財団の使命は、創立者の思想を継承し、対立と混迷が収まらない国際情勢の中にあって、研究者の良心の火を灯し続け、世界平和への道を切り開く努力を地道に続けていくことだと考える。」

力ずくではない研究者の良心の火が本財団の希望の灯です。人種、性別、宗教、思想を問わず灯る良心の火が平和共存への道を照らすことを信じてやみません。

VOICE OF 2024 FELLOWS

Dr. Daniela Battaglia Hirata

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【 Brazil 】

A letter about my experience in Japan

My field of research focuses on replacing industrial processes that are currently toxic and pollute the environment with environmentally friendly and sustainable processes. For the last 10 years, I have been working on enzymatic catalysis, which enables significant energy savings and reduced environmental impact.

Japan is one of the modern societies most concerned with preserving the environment and is at the forefront of a global model for recycling. The polymer polyethylene terephthalate (PET) has a wide range of applications, as packaging material or for the manufacture of bottles. Like other materials, it needs to be recycled to reduce its environmental impact, but due to its chemical structure, its decomposition does not occur spontaneously in the environment and remains polluting for thousands of years.

One alternative to reduce the environmental impact is recycling. However, the current main recycling process for PET leads to a loss of mechanical properties, so that PET can only be recycled to a limited extent in this route. Enzymatic catalysis for PET recycling is a very advantageous alternative as it offers the possibility of infinite recycling without the PET losing its original mechanical properties and can be reused countless times to produce new PET bottles. This advantage can encourage investment in the recycling process and minimize their disposal into the environment.

Therefore, this experience was very enriching, both in terms of the science and daily life in the lab, the contact with the researchers, and in terms of the culture and life outside the university. Japan is an ancient country whose culture and spirituality are still present in its society, which makes this country very unique. The trip to Hiroshima, sponsored by the Matsumae International Foundation (MIF), was very important for me because it made me reflect on the fact that science is responsible for the technology it

私の研究は、有毒で汚染を引き起こしている現在の工業プロセスを、環境に優しく持続可能なものに置き換えることに重点を置いています。この10年間は、大幅な省エネと環境負荷の低減を可能にする酵素触媒の研究に取り組んできました。

日本は世界で最も環境に配慮した社会のひとつであり、リサイクル分野では世界的リーダーでもあります。ポリマーであるポリエチレンテレフタレート（PET）は、包装からボトル製造まで幅広い用途に使用されています。他の素材と同様、環境への影響を減らすためにリサイクルする必要がありますが、その構造上、環境中で自然に分解されることはなく、何千年もの間、汚染し続けるのです。

環境への影響を減らすための選択肢の一つがリサイクルです。しかし、主に利用されているリサイクル工程では、PETの機械的特性が失われるため、リサイクルできる量は限られています。PETリサイクルのための酵素触媒法は、PET本来の機械的特性を失うことなく無限にリサイクルできる可能性があり、新たなPETボトル製造にも数え切れないほど回数再利用できるため、非常に有利な代替手段となります。この利点により、リサイクル工程への投資を促し、環境への廃棄量を最小限に抑えることができます。

日本での経験は、研究室での科学や日常生活、研究者との接触、そして大学の外での文化や生活といった面で、非常に充実したものでした。日本は歴史ある国であり、その文化や精神性は今でも社会に残っていて、この国を非常にユニークなものにしています。松前国際交流財団（MIF）主催の広島への研修旅行は、科学が生み出した技術に責任を持ち、破壊の道具として使われないように努力すべきだという事実を学ぶ非常に重要な機会でした。あの悲劇が日本社会に与えた影響

creates and should work to ensure that it won't be used as a tool of destruction. There I was able to understand the extent of the impact of the tragedy on Japanese society and the consequences that are still present for many families who were victims of such a brutal event.

The biography of Dr. Shigeyoshi Matsumae enabled me to get to know him better and to admire the founder of MIF even more. Dr. Matsumae was a visionary, a man far ahead of his time who overcame many challenges to realize an educational model aimed at building a more humane and conscious society. For me personally, he is an inspiration for both scientists and educators.

I'm very grateful to the Japanese people for the opportunity to have had this experience, which has left a deep impression on me and given me new strength to continue fighting for the preservation of our planet and for a more conscious and fraternal society. I hope that I can contribute to strengthening relations between Brazil and Japan in order to build a world based on respect and peace between all nations and on the protection and preservation of our environment.

の大きさと、残酷な出来事の犠牲となった多くの家族に、今も大きな影響を与え続けていることを理解できました。

松前重義博士の伝記を読んで、私は松前博士をより深く知り、MIFの創設者への畏敬の念が深まりました。松前博士は先見の明があり、時代のはるか先を行く人物であり、より人間的で意識の高い社会を築くことを目的とした教育モデルを実現するために多くの困難を乗り越えました。私にとって、松前博士は科学者と教育者の双方にインスピレーションを与えてくれる存在です。

このような経験をする機会を与えてくださった日本の皆様に心から感謝しています。この経験は私に深い印象を残し、地球の保護と、より意識的で友愛に満ちた社会の実現に向けて闘い続ける新たな活力を与えてくれました。すべての国の尊敬と平和、そして環境の保護と保全に基づいた世界を築くために、ブラジルと日本の関係強化に貢献したいと考えています。

VOICE OF 2024 FELLOWS

Dr. Morshed Kassouha

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【 Syria 】

The smile of a child playing in Peace Park (Nagasaki) embodies the essence of hope.

Throughout life, there are fleeting moments and brief encounters with individuals whose profound impact remains indefinitely. I still remember the laboratory diagnosis training course I participated in 2006, guided by Hiroaki Nishikawa, a Japanese professor, and JICA expert resident in my Faculty. I was deeply impressed by his organizational skills, dedication, and meticulous attention to detail, which transformed his laboratory in Syria into a hub of scientific inquiry, for both, researchers and students. Those days ignited my passion for scientific research, academia, and admiration for Japanese culture.

Years later, the Syrian war began in 2011, leaving devastating consequences that persist to this day, and broken communication between my university and the global scientific community, which adversely impacted researchers' knowledge and capabilities to stay abreast of the swift advancements in science worldwide.

In light of the aforementioned considerations, and to bridge the scientific divide between our knowledge and the realities observed in the developed world, I was inspired by the counsel of Professor Samer IBRAHIM, a former MIF fellow in 2003 to apply for the MIF competitive fellowship.

I was fortunate to be awarded the fellowship, which allowed me to work at Nagasaki University, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Department of Parasitology. I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Shinjiro HAMANO, for welcoming me and providing me the chance to engage in research on one of the most significant parasites affecting Syria, the Leishmania parasite, and also for investigating the immune responses associated with it.

During my time in Japan, I encountered numerous remarkable experiences and was embraced by the kindness of the Japanese people, who extend their assistance to strangers in extraordinary ways. On the

人生には、短くとも、いつまでも深い影響を与える、一瞬の出来事や人々との出会いがあります。2006年、私が所属していた研究室の日本人教授で、JICAの専門家でもある西川洋昭先生の指導のもとで受講した臨床検査診断トレーニング・コースのことは、今でも忘れられません。西川先生の組織力、献身、細部への細心の注意は、シリアにおける先生の研究室を研究者と学生双方にとっての科学的研究拠点へと変貌させました。その日々は、私の科学研究、学問への情熱、そして日本文化への憧れに火をつけました。

その数年後、2011年にシリア内戦が始まり、今日まで続く壊滅的な影響を残しました。また、世界の科学界とのコミュニケーションも断絶し、研究者の知識や科学の急速な進歩に対して大幅な遅れを取ることになりました。

以上のことを考慮し、先進国と我々の間にあるギャップを埋めるために、2003年MIF奨学者であるサメール・イブラヒム教授の助言を受けて、MIFフェローシップに応募しました。

幸運にも採択され、長崎大学熱帯医学研究所寄生虫学分野で研究する機会を得られました。指導教員である濱野真二郎先生には、シリアで猛威を振るっているリーシュマニア症とそ

other hand, what resonated with me most profoundly was the rich history of Nagasaki city. The second city which suffered the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons.

The city of Nagasaki, with its architecture, natural landscapes, green mountains that encircle the city, and inhabitants, embodies for me humanity's unwavering commitment to life.

Throughout my time in Nagasaki, I used to visit the Peace Park every weekend, a renowned site frequented by visitors who come to pay their respects to the victims of the nuclear explosion. The most profound impression on my heart and mind was made by the sight of a three-year-old Japanese child joyfully running and laughing in the Peace Park. This child epitomizes the victory of beauty, life, and peace over war and destruction, and he fills me with hope for the future of my homeland, Syria.

As Dr. Matsumae articulated "*one must overcome the petty significance of self-preservation and by putting one's view of life on a firm base and formulating for oneself a view of the world and history, discover the real nature of one's mission vis-à-vis society.*"("The Life of Struggles of a Fighter for Peace") Upon concluding my tenure in Japan, I intend to return to my country with a renewed perspective, aiming to enhance the scientific knowledge within universities and to share the invaluable lessons I have learned from the Japanese people to help rejuvenate my homeland.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to everyone at MIF, particularly Prof. Dr. Toshiaki HASHIMOTO and Ms. Yuka AMANO, as well as all members of the Department of Parasitology at Nagasaki University. This dream would not have been possible without your support.

の免疫応答について研究する機会を与えてくださったことに大変感謝しています。

日本滞在中、私は多くのことに驚かされ、また、見知らぬ人にも手を差し伸べる日本人の優しさに感銘を受けました。その一方で、最も印象的だったのは、核兵器によって壊滅的な被害を受けた2番目の都市である、長崎市の豊かな歴史です。

建築物、自然景観、街を取り囲む緑の山々、そして人々…長崎の街は、生命に対する人々の揺るぎない強い意思が体現された場所です。

長崎での滞在中、私は毎週末、平和公園を訪れました。平和公園は、原爆の犠牲者を弔うために訪れる人々で賑わう場所です。私の心に最も深い印象を与えたのは、平和公園で楽しそうに走り、笑う3歳の日本人の子どもの姿でした。この子どもは、戦争と破壊に対する美と生命と平和の勝利を体現しており、祖国シリアの未来に対する希望を私に抱かせてくれました。

松前博士が明言したように、「一切のけち臭い自己保身の意識を克服し、人生観の確立、世界観・歴史観の把握によって、自らの人生と社会に対する使命を発見し、これが実践にあたると言うのである。」(『わが昭和史』より)

フェローシップ期間終了後、私は新たな視点を持って母国に戻ります。大学における科学的知識を発展させ、日本人から学んだかけがえのない教訓を分かち合い、母国に新たな活力を与えることを目指します。

最後に、MIFの皆さん、特に橋本敏明理事長と天野夢果さん、長崎大学寄生虫学分野の皆さんに感謝します。皆さんのサポートがなければ、この夢は実現しなかったでしょう。

VOICE OF 2024 FELLOWS

Dr. David C. Nwobodo

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【 Nigeria 】

My Japan Experience

As a young child, I had always aspired to visit Japan, a country celebrated for its innovation, strong emphasis on science and technology, and the profound story of Hiroshima's atomic bombing. After completing my PhD, where I researched on the "modulation of biosynthetic genes of endophytic fungi of selected medicinal plants for the production of improved bioactive compounds," I found myself at a crossroads. My research had opened new questions in microbial biosynthesis, but I knew that to truly grow as a scientist, I needed broader perspectives and experiences beyond my home country. Being awarded the MIF Fellowship felt like an incredible stroke of luck; a rare opportunity to take my work to a global stage in one of the most innovative countries in the world, Japan.

The fellowship gave me the opportunity to join Prof. Kenji Watanabe's Laboratory at the University of Shizuoka. My goal was to deepen my understanding of microbial biosynthesis and drug discovery while learning about the Japanese culture I had admired from afar. Little did I know that my journey in Japan would extend far beyond science and into a deeper understanding of humanity.

One of the most profound moments of my stay was visiting Hiroshima and Miyajima Island. Walking through the Peace Memorial Park and learning about Hiroshima's history was a deeply moving experience. It reminded me of the immense responsibility that comes with scientific progress and the necessity of applying knowledge ethically and for the good of humanity.

Beyond the lab and historical sites, the people I

子どものころから、その革新性と科学技術への強い関心で称賛され、そして広島への原爆投下という惨禍の歴史を持つ日本をいつも訪れたいと思っていました。「改良された生物活性化合物の生産を目的とした、厳選された薬用植物の内生菌の生合成遺伝子のモジュレーション」に関する博士課程研究を終えた後、私は岐路に立たされていることに気がつきました。私の研究は微生物の生合成に関する新たな疑問を提起しましたが、科学者として真に成長するには、母国を越えたより広い視野と経験が必要だと思いました。MIFフェローシップに採択されたことは、信じられないような幸運でした。世界で最も革新的な国のひとつである日本で、自分の研究を世界的な舞台で展開するまたとない機会でした。

このフェローシップのおかげで、静岡県立大学の渡辺賢二先生のもとで研究する機会を得ました。私の目標は、遠くから憧れていた日本の文化を学びながら、微生物の生合成と創薬についての理解を深めることでした。日本での滞在が、科学の域をはるかに超えて、人間性への深い理解へと広がっていくことになるとは、知る由もありませんでした。

今回の滞在中、最も印象深かったのは、広島と宮島を訪れたことです。平和記念公園を歩き、広島の歴史について学んだことは、深い感動を覚えました。科学の進歩に伴う計り知れない責任と、知識を倫理的に、人類の利益のために応用する必要性を思い知らされました。

研究室や史跡だけでなく、日本で出会った人々も私の経験を忘れがたいものにしてくれました。指導教員をはじめとする研究室の同僚から見ず知らずの親切な人々まで、彼らの温かさ、おもてなし、規律正しさは私の心に深く残りました。日本の生活に浸透している文化の豊かさと伝統への敬意に心から魅了されました。

日本で得たスキルや知識は、私の研究能力を大幅に高め、科学・文化・倫理を融合させるものの見方を形作ってくれました。私はこれらの経験を現在の研究と将来の取り組みに活かしていきます。また日本での教訓は、国際的な協力関係を促進し、地球規模の課題解決に向けて研究成果を倫理的に活

met in Japan made my experience unforgettable. From my host and colleagues to the kind strangers I encountered, their warmth, hospitality, and discipline left a lasting impression on me. I was truly intrigued by the cultural richness and respect for tradition that permeates Japanese life.

The skills and knowledge I gained in Japan have significantly enhanced my research capabilities and shaped my perspective on the intersection of science, culture, and ethics. I am leveraging these experiences in my current research and future endeavors. The lessons from Japan continue to inspire me to foster international collaborations and advocate for the ethical application of scientific advancements to address global challenges.

I remain deeply grateful to the MIF and the beautiful people of Japan for making my stay so enriching and memorable. This experience reinforced the value of international research and collaborations. Engaging with scientists from different cultures broadens perspectives, fosters creativity, and drives innovation. I encourage anyone in science to embrace such opportunities. It's not just about advancing your career but about growing as a global citizen and contributing meaningfully to a shared future.

用することの重要性を訴える原動力となり続けています。

私の滞在をとても豊かで思い出深いものにしてくれたMIFと日本の素晴らしい人々に深く感謝しています。この経験は、国際的な研究と協力の価値を再認識させてくれました。

異なる文化を持つ科学者と関わることで、視野が広がり、創造性が育まれ、イノベーションが促進されます。科学に携わるすべての人に、このような機会を積極的に活用することをお勧めします。それは単にキャリアアップのためだけでなく、国際人として成長し、共通の未来に有意義な貢献をするためです。

VOICE OF 2024 FELLOWS

Dr. Poe Nandar Kyaw

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【 Myanmar 】

It has been always my dream to study in Japan at least once in my lifetime. Since my childhood, I have been familiar with the sayings "Japanese products are durable, they are of good quality, they are reliable, etc.".

I also have heard from my elders that the Japanese spirit is so strong to turn Japan into a world-leading place even after suffering a lot from World War II. Now, it is undeniable that Japan is at the forefront of scientific and technological advancements, making it an ideal destination for passionate researchers.

I am eager to know what makes Japanese technologies and products so unique, and how is their academic spirit and social culture. As a higher education professional, it is necessary for me to keep expanding my knowledge horizon relating to research methodologies, advanced laboratory facilities, and technologies from developed countries. In addition, Japanese cultural heritage, charming traditions, and breathtaking landscapes that I have seen through different media platforms are also attracting me to go and see Japan in person. Sushi and Sakura were the two most appealing things to me to enjoy Japanese culture and landscape.

Finally, my dream has come true, and I am here in Japan. With the support of Professor Takanori Saito and his team in the laboratory of pomology, Faculty of Horticulture, Chiba University, I am researching the lipid (oil) profiles, the genes related to it, and the antioxidant activities in avocado which is the main reason we consume it in regards of skin and physical health. While working in the lab, I have seen that every individual takes their own responsibility and gives full dedication and commitment to their work. During my stay in Japan, there are many things that surprise and impress me. One of them is the waste disposal system. The responsibility comes from the individual and makes the whole waste disposal and recycling process make easier and more systematic. I feel that both the good governing system and the civilians who are disciplined, responsible and dedicated make Today's Japan. The way Japanese maintain and value of their landscapes is also amazing and breathtaking. I could experience spider-lily and Kochia watching in Saitama and Ibaraki. I was lucky enough to see winter Sakura (Jugatsu), as well. I also could expand my networks by meeting with MIF research fellows from different cultural and scientific backgrounds.

Things I experienced in Japan are invaluable to me personally and professionally. I decided to disseminate the research skills and knowledge I gained to my career back in my home country. I am committed to integrating these experiences into my upcoming research and outreach activities. I will also share them with my colleagues and the students. If the situations favor, I would like to collaborate in research activities

人生で一度は日本に留学することが私の夢でした。また、子供の頃から「日本製品は丈夫で品質が良く、信頼できる」という言葉に慣れ親しんできました。

また年長者からは、「日本人の精神はとても強く、第二次世界大戦で大きな苦しみを味わった後でも、日本は世界のリーダーになった」と聞かされてきました。今日、日本が科学技術の最先端にあることは明らかで、情熱的な研究者にとって理想的な目的地となっています。

日本の技術や製品の独自性の源泉は何なのか、また、日本人の学究的好奇心や社会文化がどのようなものなのかを学びたいと切望しています。また、高等教育の専門家として、研究方法論や先進的な研究施設、先進国の技術について、常に知見を広めることが重要だと考えています。加えて、さまざまなメディアを通じて目にした日本の文化遺産、魅力的な伝統、息を呑むような美しい風景も、実際に日本を訪れたいと思わせる魅力となっています。中でも、寿司と桜は最も魅力的なものでした。

ついに夢が叶い、日本にやってきました。千葉大学・果樹園芸学研究室の齋藤 隆徳先生とそのチームのサポートを受けながら、アボカドの脂質（油）プロファイル、関連遺伝子、抗酸化活性について研究しています。研究室では、一人ひとりが自分の仕事に責任を持ち、献身的に取り組んでいます。日本滞在中、驚きと感動を覚えることがたくさんありました。そのひとつがゴミ処理システムです。一人ひとりが責任を持つことで、ゴミ処理とリサイクルの全プロセスがより簡素で体系的なになっています。優れた行政システムと、規律正しく責任感があり献身的な市民（人々）の両方が、今の日本を作り上げていると感じています。日本人が自分たちの景観を大切にし、感謝する姿はとても素晴らしいものです。埼玉や茨城では、彼岸花やコキアなどを観察することができ、さらに幸運なことに、十月桜を見ることもできました。また、異なる文化的・科学的背景を持つMIF奨学者たちとの出会いによって、ネットワークを広げることもできました。

日本で経験したことは、個人的にも仕事上でもかけがえの

with Japanese institutions in the near future. I also believe that the Japanese government will support academic and research improvement regardless of race, sex, religion, and ideology. I look forward to the possibilities this experience will bring to my home country.

ないものです。滞在中に得た研究スキルや知識を、母国でのキャリアや今後の研究、地域活動に活かしていきたいと思います。また、同僚や学生たちとも分かち合いたいと思います。機会に恵まれれば、近い将来、日本の研究機関と研究活動を行いたいと考えています。日本政府は人種、性別、宗教、イデオロギーに関係なく、学術や研究の向上を支援してくれると信じています。その機会が訪れることを楽しみにしています。

VOICE OF 2024 FELLOWS

Dr. Martin Fonkoua

Senior Lecturer
Department of Biochemistry, The University of Yaoundé 1
【 Cameroon 】

I am Dr. Martin Fonkoua, a senior lecturer and researcher at the Department of Biochemistry, The University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon. My areas of research are epigenetics and the metabolism of non-communicable diseases.

I am one of the 2024 MIF fellows.

This was an opportunity for me to get my hands on scientific equipment that I would never have had the chance to use in my home country and to forge strong scientific links through daily interaction with the laboratory members.

Over and above the scientific aspect, it was a privilege to be in direct contact with the wonderful Japanese people, and I have so many good memories of the 6 months I spent at Gunma University.

I am grateful to the MIF and the Japanese government.

Good luck to future applicants.

私はカメルーン、ヤウンデ第一大学生物化学科のマーティン・フォンクア博士です。研究分野はエピジェネティクスと非感染性疾患の代謝です。

この研修は、母国では決して使う機会のなかった実験機器に触れる機会であり、日々の交流を通じて研究室のメンバーと科学者としての強い絆を築く機会でもありました。

学術的な面だけでなく、素晴らしい日本の人々と直接触れ合う機会を得られたことを光栄に思います。また、群馬大学で過ごした6ヶ月間は、とても楽しい思い出ばかりです。

MIFと日本政府に感謝しています。

将来の応募者の幸運を祈ります。

Promotion

Dr. Patrick Akata Nwofe (2019 FELLOW)

Nigeria

Professor
Acting Vice Chancellor
Ebonyi State University of Aeronautics and Aerospace Engineering

I write to share the news of my progression since I left Japan in 2019 following my induction into the MIF Research Fellow, 2019, after the successful completion of my MIF postdoctoral research stay at Tokyo University of Science, Japan. Let me also add that the output of my research activities during my MIF postdoctoral research stay was widely published in highly rated-journals.

My promotion to the rank of Professor that has been long delayed by Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria was finally released on December 2023 with the effective date as October 1, 2019. This goodwill was also extended to other professorial applicants, courtesy of the people-oriented leadership style of the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency Rt Honourable Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru who gave express directives to the Vice Chancellor (Professor Chigozie Ogbu) of Ebonyi State University to release the professorial promotion arrears.

On August 19, 2024, I was appointed the pioneering Acting Vice Chancellor of Ebonyi State University of Aeronautics and Aerospace Engineering (EBSUAAE), Ezza, Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

The MIF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship has paved the way for me to achieve greater academic feats. It has endeared me to different corridors of academic corroborations and research engagements that have contributed mutual benefits to the partners involved. As I now occupy the exalted position of the Vice Chancellor, it is my wish that MIF will remain a strong partner in research and human capacity building in a way that yields unlimited successes to EBSUAAE.

Special thanks to the MIF Family and the Great People of Japan!

Thank you all for your good wishes and support.

I love you all!

[List of Publications]

(i) Nwofe, P.A., and Mutsumi, S. (2022). Complexing agent-dependent properties of chemically deposited Tin Antimony sulphide thin films for use in sustainable energy devices. *Journal of Electronic Materials*, 51, 1148-1162. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11664-021-09376-8

(ii) Nwofe, P.A., and Mutsumi, S. (2021). Tuning the properties of RF-sputtered SnS thin films and enhanced performance in RF-sputtered SnS thin films hetero-junction solar cell devices. *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung A*, 76(2), 181-195. https://doi.org/10.1515/zna-2020-0275

(iii) Nwofe, P.A., and Mutsumi, S. (2020). Influence of deposition time and annealing treatments on the properties of chemically deposited $Sn_2Sb_2S_5$ thin films and photovoltaic behaviour of $Sn_2Sb_2S_5$-based solar cells. *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung A*, 75(10), 887-901. https://doi.org/10.1515/zna-2020-0166

(iv) Nwofe, P.A., and Mutsumi, S. (2020). Microstructural, Optical, and Electrical Properties of Chemically Deposited Tin Antimony Sulfide Thin Films for Use in Optoelectronic Devices. *Physica Status Solidi A*, 1900881. https://doi.org/10.1002/pssa.201900881

2019年度MIF奨学者として東京理科大学で滞在しました。その後、日本を離れてからの進展についてお知らせします。また、研究滞在中の成果が、定評のある学術誌に広く掲載されたことも加えてお知らせしたいと思います。

ナイジェリアのエボニ州立大学で、長らく延期されていた私の教授への昇進が、2019年10月1日付けで2023年12月にようやく発令されました。エボニ州知事フランシス・オグボナ・ヌイフル氏の善意により、他の教授候補も含めて、昇進に伴う未払い金を支払うよう同大学に命じられました。

2024年8月19日、私はエボニ州立航空宇宙工学大学の初代副学長代理に任命されました。

MIFフェローシップのおかげで、より多くの成果を残すことができました。また、そのおかげで学術的な裏付けや研究活動のさまざまな分野に興味を持つようになり、関係者相互に利益をもたらしてくれました。副学長という高位に就いた今、MIFが研究と人材育成の強力なパートナーであり続け、エボニ州立航空宇宙工学大学に無限の成功もたらしてくれることが私の願いです。

ご支援をいただいた、MIF関係者の皆様と日本の素晴らしい人々に感謝します。

皆さん、ありがとうございました。

Dr. Bernadeth F. Ticar (2019 FELLOW)

The Philippines

Professor
Iloilo Science and Technology University

My MIF fellowship engagement at Meijo University, Nagoya, Japan, enriched my research capabilities and also allowed me to establish vital networks and lasting friendships with fellow scholars and friends from different institutions. These connections have opened doors to collaborative research opportunities that have been instrumental in advancing my career as a researcher and an educator. The friendships made during my fellowship were amazing and are worth to be treasured forever. Thank you, the MIF, for taking care of me when I was in Japan, especially during the pandemic with all the challenges I have encountered. Indeed, I have found a family in the fellowship program, especially with MIF.

I am very grateful to the Matsumae International Fellowship for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the scholars' cohort last 2019- 2020. Also, I have recently been promoted to Full Professor in our institution, the Iloilo Science and Technology University, Iloilo City, Philippines. This achievement is a testament to the profound impact of the MIF has had on my professional development.

Once again, thank you the MIF for your belief in my potential and for your continued support of scholars across the globe for the promotion of a better and peaceful world to live in. I look forward to sharing further updates on my work and collaborations in the future. Take care, everyone!!!

名城大学でのフェローシッププログラムを通して、研究スキルを向上させるとともに、さまざまな研究機関の研究者たちと大切なネットワークや永続的な友情を築くことができました。これらのつながりによって、共同研究の機会への扉が開かれ、研究者・教育者としてのキャリアを前進させる上で大いに役立ちました。フェローシップ中に築いた友情は素晴らしく、永遠に大切にする価値があります。MIFの皆さん、日本滞在中の、特にパンデミックの最中、あらゆる困難に直面したとき、支えてくださってありがとうございました。この奨学制度を通して、家族と呼べる存在を見つけました。

2019年度奨学者の一員となる機会を与えてくださったことに大変感謝しています。また、私は最近、フィリピンのイロイロ市にあるイロイロ科学技術大学で正教授に昇進しました。この成果は、MIFの奨学制度が私の専門能力の成長に大きな影響を与えたことの証しです。

私の可能性を信じてくだってありがとうございました。また、より良い平和な世界を築くために世界中の研究者を支援し続けてくださっているMIFに改めて感謝申し上げます。これからも、私の研究やコラボレーションについてお伝えできることを楽しみにしています。

皆さん、お元気で‼

Publication

1. Dr. Fousseni Folega (2018 Fellow)
Geomatic and Ecosystems Modeling/Laboratory of Botany and Plant Ecology, Faculty of Science, University of Lome, Lome, Togo

> ***Flora of urban green space of Atakpame city in Togo***
>
> Rev. Sci. Technol., Synthèse Vol 25, numéro 2: 25-39 (2019)
> https://www.ajol.info/index.php/srst/article/view/192420/181530

2. Dr. Faustin Pascal Tsagué Manfo (2019 Fellow)
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Buea, Buea, Cameroon

Dr. Yoshinori Ikenaka
Laboratory of Toxicology, Department of Environmental Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

> ***Exposure of Male Farmers and Nonfarmers to Neonicotinoid Pesticides in the South-West and Littoral Regions of Cameroon: A Comparative Study***
>
> Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 43(5)
> https://setac.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/etc.5842

3. Dr. Francisco Pizarro (2020 Fellow)
Escuela de Ingeniería Eléctrica, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile

Dr. Osamu Sakai
Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, The University of Shiga Prefecture, Shiga, Japan

> ***Experimental characterization of manipulated metallic plate array supporting spoof surface plasmon polaritons in the W band***
>
> Phys. Rev. B 111, Issue 8, p.p L081113, 2025.
> https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.111.L081113

4. Dr. Vitalii Palchykov (2023 Fellow)
Research Institute of Chemistry and Geology, Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, Dnipro, Ukraine

> ***O,S, Se-containing Biginelli products based on cyclic β-ketosulfone and their postfunctionalization***
>
> *Beilstein J. Org. Chem. 2024, 20, 2143–2151*
> https://www.beilstein-journals.org/s/I4G4v7PXU8

5. Dr. Dijana Jelic (2023 Fellow)
University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Chemistry Department, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Kohsaku Kawakami
National Institute for Materials Science, Research Center for Macromolecules and Biomaterials, Tsukuba, Japan

> ***Isoconversional kinetic analysis of thermal decomposition of Bidirectionally stabilized amorphous formulation loading Vitamin D3 (Cholecalciferol) and Calcium Carbonate***
>
> Thermochimica Acta, Volume 736, 2024, 179740, ISSN 0040-6031
> https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tca.2024.179740

6. Dr. Sumiyyah Sabar (2024 Fellow)
Chemical Sciences Programme, School of Distance Education (SDE), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia

Dr. Norikazu Nishiyama
Division of Chemical Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan

> ***Advancements in zeolite and zeolite-based sorbents: Modification strategies in mitigating nitrogen-containing pollutants from water and wastewater***
>
> Inorganic Chemistry Communications 172 (2025) 113715
> https://doi.org/10.1016/j.inoche.2024.113715

The MIF 2024 Fellowship Program

Usage Guide〈凡例〉
① Fellow
② Host

The highlight of the 2024 academic year was the MIF Tokyo Meeting in September 2024, which provided many opportunities for fellows to interact with each other. The MIF deeply appreciates all the host professors, institutions, and supporters for their great efforts and cooperation in welcoming the fellows.

2024年度は15名の奨学者が来日いたしました。広島への国内研修旅行に加えて、東京ミーティングを開催し、奨学者同士が交流する機会をより多く持つことができました。奨学者の受け入れに際し、ご尽力を賜りました各受け入れ研究機関の皆様、また日頃より本財団の活動にご賛同くださっている支援者の皆様に改めて深く御礼申し上げます。

2023

① **Dr. Sinlapachai Senarat**
Thailand
Lecturer
Division of Biological Science, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University

② **Dr. Atsuo Iida**
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University

2024

① **Dr. Daniela Battaglia Hirata**
Brazil
Associate Professor-IV
Institute of Chemistry, Federal University of Alfenas (UNIFAL-MG)

② **Dr. Masayuki Oda**
Professor, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Kyoto Prefectural University

① **Dr. Fabiola Moshi**
Tanzania
Senior Lecturer / Head of Academic Department
Department of Nursing Management and Education, School of Nursing and Public Health of The University of Dodoma

② **Dr. Keiko Nakamura**
Professor and Chair
Department of Global Health Entrepreneurship, The Institute of Science Tokyo, formerly Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU)

① **Dr. Javier Echevarría**
Argentina
Senior Demonstrator
Invertebrate Palaeozoology Department, La Plata Museum, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum, La Plata National University

② **Dr. Yasuo Kondo**
Professor, Science and Technology Division, Natural Sciences Cluster, (Faculty of Science and Technology), Kochi University

① **Dr. Morshed Kassouha**
Syria
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hama University

② **Dr. Shinjiro Hamano**
Professor & Head, Department of Parasitology, Institute of Tropical Medicine (NEKKEN), Nagasaki University

① **Dr. David Chinemerem Nwobodo**
Nigeria
Head
Department of Microbiology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Renaissance University, Enugu, Nigeria

② **Dr. Kenji Watanabe**
Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Shizuoka

① **Dr. Richard Espiritu**
The Philippines
Associate Professor
Department of Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, College of Engineering, University of the Philippines Diliman

② **Dr. Kenji Miyatake**
Professor, Clean Energy Research Center, University of Yamanashi

2024

① **Dr. Derek Chan Juinn Chieh**
Malaysia
Associate Professor
School of Chemical Engineering, Engineering Campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia

② **Dr. Kohsuke Honda**
Professor, International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University

① **Dr. Poe Nandar Kyaw**
Myanmar
Lecturer
Department of Horticulture, Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

② **Dr. Takanori Saito**
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University

① **Dr. Anuj Kumar**
India
Assistant Professor
School of Mathematics, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, India

② **Dr. Yasuhiro Takeuchi, Professor / Dr. Yukihiko Nakata, Associate Professor**
Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Science and Engineering, Aoyama Gakuin University

① **Dr. Elena Gofas Salas**
France
Researcher
Institut de la Vision, team 20

② **Dr. Michiko Mandai**
Director, Research Center, Kobe City Eye Hospital

① **Dr. Pawan Govil**
India
Scientist “E”
Marine Micropaleontology and Geochemistry Department, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, under Department of Science and Technology, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

② **Dr. Kaoru Kubota**
Researcher, Institute for Marine Geodynamics, JAMSTEC

① **Dr. Ghislain Zangmo Tefogoum**
Cameroon
Associate Professor
Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Maroua, Cameroon

② **Dr. Takashi Oguchi**
Professor, Center for Spatial Information Science, The University of Tokyo

① **Dr. Sumiyyah Sabar**
Malaysia
Senior Lecturer
School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia

② **Dr. Norikazu Nishiyama**
Professor, Division of Chemical Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University

① **Dr. Martin Fonkoua**
Cameroon
Senior Lecturer
Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon

② **Dr. Takeshi Inagaki**
Professor, Laboratory of Epigenetics and Metabolism, Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation, Gunma University

The MIF 2024 Tokyo Meeting

東京ミーティング2024を開催しました

The MIF hosted the 2024 Tokyo Meeting at Arcadia Ichigaya on September 28, 2024. The fellows, their host professors, and the MIF members attended to foster exchange and interaction.

At the beginning of the meeting, everyone observed a moment of silence to pray for the repose of Dr. Tatsuro Matsumae, the former MIF Chairperson, who had passed away.

Then, on behalf of the Foundation, Toshiaki Hashimoto, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, stated: "I would like to carry on the philosophy of Dr. Shigeyoshi Matsumae, the founder of the MIF, along with all of you. I also hope you will continue to contribute to the development of your home country."

The fellows then introduced their research and shared the culture and history of their home countries. In their presentations, they discussed the current status and prospects of research aimed at addressing the development and social issues in their countries, including the industrialization of native fruit trees, research on cell synthesis technology to enable new gene therapy, and the development of new plastic recycling technology.

9月28日に東京ミーティングをアルカディア市ヶ谷で開催しました。松前国際友好財団の関係者と奨学者、受け入れ教員が参加し、交流を深めました。

開催に際して、逝去された松前達郎元理事長の冥福を祈って全員で黙とうを捧げました。続いて財団を代表して橋本敏明理事長が、「これからも皆さんとともに本財団の創設者である松前重義先生の理念を継承していきたい。そして皆さんが、母国の発展に貢献してくれることを期待しています」とあいさつ。

その後、奨学者が自身の研究内容のほか、母国の文化や歴史などを紹介。研究紹介では、母国原産の果樹の産業化、新規遺伝子治療の実現に向けた細胞合成技術の研究、新たなプラスチックリサイクル技術の開発など、各国の発展や社会課題の解決に向けた研究の現状や展望が語られました。

Comments from participants
【参加者のコメント】

I gained new motivation through exchanges with other researchers. I want to thank the MIF from the bottom of my heart for giving me the precious experience of working on joint research with Japanese researchers.

他の研究者との交流を通じて、新たなモチベーションを得ることができた。日本の研究者と共同研究に取り組むという貴重な経験を積ませてくれた松前国際友好財団に心から感謝したい。

I gained a great deal of stimulation from being exposed to research in a wide range of fields that I would not normally have the opportunity to learn about. This kind of exchange was possible only because of the MIF. I want to thank everyone who made this wonderful opportunity possible.

普段知ることのできない、幅広い分野の研究に触れることで大きな刺激が得られた。こうした交流は、松前国際友好財団だからこそできたこと。素晴らしい機会を設けてくれた皆さんに感謝いたします。

From The MIF Office 事務局だより

国内研修旅行

The MIF Study Tour

The MIF organized the Study Tour to Hiroshima.
広島への国内研修旅行を実施しました。

June 15-17, 2024

November 23-25, 2024

Comment from Fellow 奨学者からの声

Dr. Fabiola Moshi

Senior Lecturer, Head of Academic Department
Department of Nursing Management and Education
The University of Dodoma

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible study tour. This experience has profoundly transformed me, and I am now committed to being an ambassador of peace wherever I go. The sacrifices made by others have taught me invaluable lessons, and I am determined to become a responsible researcher who adheres to all ethical standards. I will ensure that my efforts contribute to solving societal problems.

この素晴らしい研修旅行に心から感謝します。この経験は私を大きく変えました。私は今、どこへ行っても平和の大使でいることを誓います。他の人々が払った犠牲は、私にかけがえのない教訓を与えてくれました。あらゆる倫理基準を守る、責任ある研究者になろうと決意しました。社会問題の解決に貢献できるよう努力します。

Welcome Back!
同窓生の来訪

The MIF Alumni came to visit the MIF office.
2名の同窓生がご来訪くださいました。

Dr. Peter Johann Walde (1985 Fellow), Professor Emeritus of the ETH Zurich

1985年度奨学者（スイス連邦工科大学チューリッヒ校・名誉教授）

October 15, 2024

Dr. Tatiana Jajcayova (2004 Fellow), Professor of Mathematics, Comenius University Bratislava

2004年度奨学者（コメンスキー大学・教授）

February 25, 2025

● The MIF 2026 Research Fellowship Program

The MIF has officially released the 2026 program. For details, please refer to the website.
https://www.mif-japan.org/en/fellowship/announcement/
The application period will be from June 1 to June 30, 2025 (Japan Standard Time).
The MIF looks forward to receiving your applications.

Special Thanks

To. Dr. Battaglia Hirata, Dr. Kassouha, Dr. Nwobodo, Dr. Poe Nandar Kyaw, Dr. Moshi
To. The MIF Alumni: Dr. Nwofe, Dr. Ticar

The Matsumae International Foundation
4-14-46, Kamiogi, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 167-0043 JAPAN
https://www.mif-japan.org e-mail: contact@mif-japan.org

THE MIF NEWSLETTER *Bilingual Edition* No.10

【ABOUT THE COVER】表紙について

Spring in the Japanese garden of the Matsumae International Foundation. The garden is filled with a myriad of colorful blossoms, most notably the symbolic Weeping Cherry Tree.

松前国際友好財団の日本庭園の春。シンボルツリーであるしだれ桜をはじめ、色とりどりの花が咲き誇ります。