

Academic Exchange between
Japan and Belgium:
A Personal Reflection on the
Occasion of 150th
Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation

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Why I am here

- Scientist: Physics; Science Education
- Encounter with Prof. Ueta at International Christian University (1998-2011) working on “EU Studies in Japan” Project, Course “EU Policy of Science, Technology and Society”
- Chair of Committee “Science Capacity of Youth”, Science Council of Japan, 2003-06; Visit to “Science and Society” of EU in 2005
- Member of Japan Belgium 150 Anniversary Consultative Committee, 2016

Personal Experiences

- Physics Major at University of Tokyo 1965-69
- Ph.D. program of University of Tokyo 1969-71
- 1971-74 Under the support of Belgian Scholarship, Study at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Service de Chimie Physique, Prof. Ilya Prigogine (Nobel Laureate 1977): Research on extension of thermodynamics to dynamical phenomena
- “Relaxation and Fluctuation in Non equilibrium Systems”

Academic Atmosphere in ULB in 1971-74

- International: Scientists from Eastern Europe (Soviet Union, Georgia, Armenia etc.), Middle East (Iran etc.), etc.
- Strong tradition and collaboration of thermodynamics in Belgium and The Netherlands and surrounding countries
- Thick volumes of Diploma thesis and Doctor's thesis; detailed description of the field involved.
- Publication of monographs in the early stage: thesis as monograph.

Further Relation with Belgium

- After obtaining Dr. of Science at ULB in 1974, I have been collaborating with “Brussels school”.
- In 1998, Solvay Conference was organized in Japan.
- Around 1990, Belgian Embassy in Japan called old Japanese students to get together. This was the start of “Société de Frites”, networking of academic people, who spent some time in Belgium for the study.
- In 2007, we established “Belgian Japanese Academic Society (BJAS)” including academics, who are interested in the networking.
- 2016 is the special year. Japan Belgium 150th Anniversary Consultative Committee, Symposium for the start of “Belgian Studies”

Solvay Conferences and Modern Physics

Quantum Mechanics in 1900 by Planck

Photo-electric Effect, Relativity and Brownian motion in 1905 by Einstein

Solvay Conference in 1911 on “Radiation and Quantum”: The first international scientific conference

21st Solvay Conference in Japan

On the theme of “Dynamical Systems and Irreversibility”
November 1-5, at Keihanna(Kyoto-Nara area), 1998
with the support of Solvay Foundation, Honda
foundation, Keihanna Foundation and Belgian Consulate
(Osaka)

Prof. Prigogine and Prof. Balescu(ULB),
Prof. van Kampen and Prof. Ernst(Utrecht) etc.

Newton’s mechanics law allows time-reversed dynamics
but in reality time seems to flow in a irreversible way.

XXIst INTERNATIONAL SOLVAY CONFERENCE in PHYSICS
Keihanna Plaza , November 1-5 . 1998
DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS AND IRREVERSIBILITY



Tie between Japan and Belgium on Antarctic Research

- In the International Geology Year 1955, Belgium hosted International Conference to discuss on International Collaboration of Antarctic Research.
- The Japanese base and Belgium base were located at the distance of 600 km.

From Belgian Embassy website

Antarctica, a bond between Belgium and Japan

date: 15 May 2013

On the occasion of the 36th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Brussels, the Embassy in Tokyo and the Belgian-Japanese Academic Society organized a very successful conference on 13 May. It underlined not only the Belgian Antarctic tradition, from Adrien de Gerlache to the Princess Elisabeth station, but also the ties that were established over time between Belgian and Japanese researchers. The first contacts took place in the 50s already, between the neighboring (sic) bases Showa and King Baudouin, located 600km of each other. Those bonds are stronger than ever today: the highlight of the evening was a meteorite weighing 18kg, brought back from Antarctica last February by a Belgian-Japanese expedition. Several Japanese members of the audience had personally had the chance to spend some time at one of the Belgian bases in Antarctica, and they spoke very warmly of their contacts with their Belgian counterparts during the reception that followed the conference. This conference was an excellent preparation to the 36th Consultative Meeting in Brussels for the members of the Japanese delegation to the ATCM, who were present at the conference.



Japanese Emperor and Belgium
reported by Namikawa
at Belgium Embassy, December 3, 2014

The former Emperor Showa was biologist and accumulated specimens of Hydrozoa. The new discovery was sent to Royal Museum of Natural History of Belgium and reported by Dr. Leloup in Bulletin of the museum in 1938.

BULLETIN

DU

Musée royal d'Histoire
naturelle de Belgique

Tome XIV, n° 28.

Bruxelles, mai 1938.

MEDEDEELINGEN

VAN HET

Koninklijk Natuurhistorisch
Museum van België

Deel XIV, n° 28.

Brussel, Mei 1938.

QUELQUES HYDROPOLYPES
DE LA BAIE DE SAGAMI, JAPON,

par E. LÉLOUP (Bruxelles).

Introduction.

A la demande de M. le D^r H. HATTORI (Biological Laboratory, Imperial Palace, Tokyo); j'ai examiné des hydropolypes récoltés par SA MAJESTÉ L'EMPEREUR DU JAPON dans la baie de Sagami.

La collection reçue comprend 29 espèces et variétés dont une espèce nouvelle, *Hebella brevitheca*, une variété nouvelle, *Halecium flexile japonica*, et huit formes signalées pour la première fois dans ces régions : *Halecium nanum*, *Diplocyathus dichotomus*, *D. sibogae*, *Laomedea dichotoma*, *L. longycyatha*, *Oampanularia africana*, *Dynamena cornicina*, *D. quadridentata elongata*.

Je remercie M. le D^r H. HATTORI pour l'occasion qu'il m'a donnée d'étudier cette collection.

Liste d'origine.

- N° 2. — Northern part of Sagami-bay. At tidal marks. On living shell, 14/VII/1934.
N° 3. — Southern part of Sagami-bay, 70 fathoms. On dead shell. 5/VIII/1935.
N° 4. — Ditto, 20 fathoms. On dead shell. 12/VI/1934.
N° 5. — Etizenzaki, 12-14 fathoms. On *Sargassum*. 16/X/1933.
N° 6. — Eastern part of Sagami-bay, 50 fathoms. On a sponge. 8/IX/1933.

Japan Belgium Academic Society (BJAS)

- Around 1990, we started “Société de Frites” as a friendship society of old Japanese students in Belgium, mainly former recipients of Belgian scholarship.
[Recipients are artists, humanity (history, history of arts, literature, etc) , social science, less natural science and engineering.]
- In 2007, we established BJAS as a society of those who are and have been involved in academic exchange between the two countries. Open seminars and concerts.
- Networking Gathering and Farewell Concert for Mr. Minister De Bassompierre on June 24, 2016



Symposium on the occasion of “150th Anniversary of Belgium-Japan Diplomatic Relation”

- Theme: Reflection on the multi-layers and cross boundaries of culture and wisdom
- December 9-11, Tokyo
- Japan and Belgium have been engaged in intimate exchange activities in diverse fields of academia, fine arts, humanity, social science, natural science, technology and industry. One of the characteristic features of Belgium is the diversity of languages and cultures with a multi-layered structure as we see in Belgian “tapestry” with finely interwoven threads.
- The purpose of this symposium is to find why and how the Belgian and Japanese cultures attract each other and to start “Belgian Studies” in Japanese academic institutions.

Perspectives

- Promote further networking of Belgium-Japan arts, science and engineering
- “Belgian Studies” will enhance mutual understanding and networking people not only between the two countries but also between EU and Japan.
- Belgium is
“Le Coeur d’Europe”.