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**About the Presenter:**

Ms. Chihiro Yamanaka graduated from Faculty of Education, Chiba University with teacher's certificates in 2005. She obtained Master's degree of Academy, in fields of development of vocational guidance, at Graduate School of Cultural Studies and Human Science, Kobe University in 2007. She has been in charge of fellowship programs for young international scientists at a funding agency, called JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), since 2007. Currently, she studies the establishment of the governmental organisation at Kobe University as a research student of Ph.D. course under supervision of Prof. Shigenori Inagaki. The presenter welcomes to take the opportunity to experience the world of Japanese high school classroom inspired by young international scientists.

**Title of Paper:** **Interlinking the World through Science: An Introduction to the JSPS Science Dialogue Program**

**Abstract:**

This paper describes the steps taken through the JSPS Science Dialogue Program towards the career guidance of Japanese secondary school children with regard to the fields of science and technology (S&T).

The results of several international tests of scientific knowledge (e.g. OECD/PISA) indicated that despite their stellar academic performances, Japanese students had the lowest attitudes towards, and interest in, scientific and technological enterprises.



***Yamanaka, Chihiro (Continued)***

It was thus imperative that Japanese students be provided with career guidance regarding S&T fields. In 2004, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) launched its Science Dialogue Programme—having the slogan 'Interlinking the World through Science'—with the view of providing these students with an opportunity to attend certain lectures by overseas post-doctoral researchers. These English-based lectures comprised an introduction to the research activity in S&T fields and experiments or hands-on training as well as an introduction to a researcher's career and his/her home country and aimed to stimulate the students' interest in these fields.

To glean the impact of the lectures on the students, they were administered questionnaires based upon the lectures' contents post every lecture. The results indicated that most of the students had enjoyed interacting with the international researchers; moreover, they had felt that event had given them a precious opportunity and wished to attend such an event again. On the other hand, they had faced these common difficulties: (1) lack of English proficiency and (2) insufficiency of scientific knowledge, both of which had hindered their communication with the lecturers. These difficulties have since been overcome by the following measures taken by the lecturers: (1) the preparation of an abstract and list of key words for the students before the lecture; (2) adoption of a slow and clear manner of speech and the avoidance of technical terms; and (3) the presence of a Japanese researcher during the lectures, not merely as a translator but also as commentator on important points. The measures' effectiveness is evidenced by the increase every year in the number of lectures and the fact that half of the aforementioned students have repeatedly participated in these events.