

DESIGNING
THE **SOLUTIONS**
FOR FUTURE
AGEING SOCIETY!

RENKEI Program from 2015 to 2017
Living with an ageing society



WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

We are glad to announce a new RENKEI Program of workshops and conference during 2015 to 2017 hosted by Osaka University (Japan) and University of Liverpool (UK).

Introduction

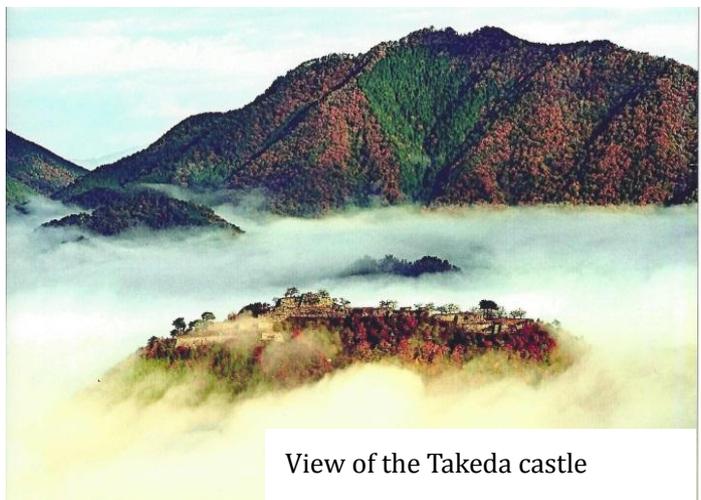
The UK and Japan are both learning to live with populations with an increasing average age and higher proportions of their societies in the older age range. In both countries the number of people that are over 65 years of age exceeds those under 16, and the number of people over 85 is set to at least double over the next 12 years. The demographic predictions are that these trends will continue. Japan has a low birth rate resulting in a high proportion of its population needing to be supported by a very few number of economically active people. The UK has an increasing birth rate but by 2050 due to a combination of increased longevity and high birth rate, 50% of its population will be economically non-active – either too young or too old. The social and health implications of this are well known and the way that we live with this is one of the great challenges for our generation.

Here, against an overly negative view of societal ageing, we would also wish to stress the positive potential of ageing for a balanced society comprising of new born to ‘active’ great-grand parents. We are, therefore, equally interested in exploring ways to support the maintenance of good health enjoyed by many older adults in an increasingly heterogeneous population together with the prevention of (further) disease in these and other individuals. It requires a transnational cross-disciplinary effort from the research communities spanning medical, biomechanics, and biological and social sciences disciplines.

With this as the background, the University of Liverpool and Osaka University have developed a programme - Living with an ageing society – where participants from different disciplines can collaborate to develop unique solutions to key challenges in this area. The programme consists of two cross-disciplinary workshops and an international conference.

1. RENKEI Interdisciplinary workshop in Osaka (22-29 Oct 2015)

The first workshop will be held in Osaka. This workshop aims to promote understanding current problems of ageing society and introduce the latest approaches for future ageing society in Japan. In addition to taking a broad programme of lectures on ageing, the participants will visit two sites. The first is an ageing community in a rural area. Here, the participants will learn more about the actual living conditions of



View of the Takeda castle

older people, and further their understanding of health promotion action that is important for ageing society. The second is an industry related visit. Participants will be encouraged to see the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies including robotic technology. Visiting a rural area will help participants understand that urban and rural areas have their own advantages and disadvantages and have different problems with regard to the well-being of older people. There will also be opportunities to visit historic and cultural sites in the area.

Participants will be divided into small groups.. Each group will select some specific issues related to ageing society and will discuss solutions to these problems. They will present their ideas on the final day of the workshop. Experienced researchers will be assigned to each group as a facilitator to assist with collecting information and promoting discussion.

2. RENKEI Interdisciplinary workshop in Liverpool (29 June- 5 July 2016)

The second workshop in Liverpool will focus on understanding current challenges of ageing society in the UK and will look at the latest concepts that are being introduced. The workshop will aim to cut across disciplines and cover approaches that are evolving through social sciences, psychological practices, medical research and engineering solutions to improving quality of life. In addition, a site visit to the Walton Centre is envisaged. The Walton Centre is the only specialist



neuroscience NHS trust in the country, and is dedicated to providing comprehensive neurological, neurosurgical and pain management services. The British Biophysical Society Conference will be held in Liverpool immediately after the workshop **(6-8 July 2016)** where dedicated sessions on neurodegenerative diseases and drug discovery are scheduled.

3. International Conference on Ageing in Liverpool (26 February to 3 March 2017)

This five-day symposium will cover the following wide-ranging topics:.

- Structural Biology of Neurodegenerative disease
- Therapeutic aspects of ND
- Healthy ageing
- 4th Age
- Molecular & Cellular mechanism of Ageing
- Motor neuron diseases
- Wiring of the neural network

- Eyes and vision
- Neuroimmunological diseases

This conference will be linked to a half-day concluding workshop with a mission of bringing together new cross-disciplinary trans-national partnerships that catalyze:

- (a). Collaborative research programmes
- (b). Joint supervision of projects at PhD level across the RENKEI network
- (c). Development of a platform for exchange of postgraduate cohorts such as those undertaking MRes degrees within the RENKEI institutions
- (d). Involvement of industry and health service providers

【Important dates】

Workshop in 2015

Date: 22 Oct 2015 - 29 Oct 2015

Place: Osaka and Hyogo, Japan

Hosted by Osaka University and the University of Liverpool

Organised by Ageing Research Group at Osaka University

Contact: ygondo@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp

Workshop in 2016

Date: 29 June 2016 - 5 July 2016

Place: Liverpool, UK

Hosted by the University of Liverpool and Osaka University

Organised by Liverpool's Renkei steering group

Contact: S.Antonyuk@liverpool.ac.uk

International Conference on Ageing in 2017

Date: 26 Feb 2017- 3 Mar 2017

Place: Liverpool, UK

Organised by the University of Liverpool and Osaka University

Participants: This is an international conference open to all with strong participation expected from RENKEI member universities in Japan & the UK.

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About RENKEI:

RENKEI (Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives) is an international platform consisting of 6 Japanese universities (Kyoto University, Kyushu

University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Ritsumeikan University, Tohoku University) and 6 UK universities (University of Bristol, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, Newcastle University, University of Southampton, UCL). It aims to create new forms of university-industry collaboration which benefit each sector as well as society as a whole and to promote the development of innovative solutions to challenges facing knowledge-based economies by bringing together talented individuals from the respective nations. RENKEI organizes working groups, workshops and conference to assemble resources and expertise across the two nations in a unique manner.

www.britishcouncil.or.jp/renkei