JSPS Alumni Club Award 2023

It is a great honour to receive the JSPS Alumni Club Award 2023. I am particularly pleased that I received the award from the JSPS Alumni Club, as I was very impressed by the JSPS Club's open and highly interdisciplinary atmosphere. I really appreciate the activities of the club.

I got to know the JSPS Alumni Club in 2015 shortly after I started at ZALF, when the meeting took place in Potsdam. Agricultural topics were dealt with at the symposium, which was the reason for my visit. But I was very surprised by the diversity of the contributions and the participants. The fact that everything was harmonized in the German-Japanese context also made it easy to find an interface with completely different disciplines and start a conversation. Since I was new to Germany and was looking for contacts, but networking with Japan was also important, this symposium was a very attractive meeting to me. The exchange with the participants on experiences in both countries during the coffee break or over dinner was very interesting and stimulating.

In the years that followed, I continued to work in the research world in Germany and on the link to Japan, and I am now well settled down in Germany. Strengthening the exchange between Germany and Japan and making an active contribution is one of my goals in life, predestined by my Japanese father and German mother, born and raised in Japan and living in Germany. It has always been an enrichment for me to see one country's view of another and to deal with it critically and in a harmony-oriented manner.

The prize motivates me to continue to be active and to strengthen networking and cooperation between Germany and Japan. Thank you again for the selection and I would like to continue to get involved in the JSPS Alumni Club!

Sonoko Bellingrath-Kimura