In addition to symposiums and international conferences supported and implemented as part of its projects, SPF also hosts a series of lectures and seminars. These events address the latest, most pressing matters as they arise.

**Major Lectures and Seminars in Fiscal 2009**

**Lectures and Seminars Address Timely Issues**

When the new influenza A virus (H1N1) broke out in North America, Tohoku University professor Hitoshi Oshitani reported on the latest information available. Having been involved in drafting basic strategies for developing countries at WHO headquarters, professor Oshitani spoke about how the virus was spreading, its infectiousness and virulence, and future scenarios and challenges.

**Speaker:** Hitoshi Oshitani, Professor, Department of Virology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine  
**Date:** May 20, 2009  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 2nd floor, Nippon Foundation Building

With countries around the world being impacted severely by the global financial crisis, India has moved into the spotlight as its economy continues to grow steadily since the inauguration of the second Mahamoud Singh administration. Experts from Japan and India discussed political trends in India and the economic relationship between the two countries.

**Speaker:** Dalel Singh, Resident Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Tokyo  
Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, and other speakers  
**Date:** August 6, 2009  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 2nd floor, Nippon Foundation Building

To mark the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cuba, a speech by the ambassador of Cuba to Japan on his country’s approach to diplomacy and relations with Japan was followed by a performance by Antonio Koga, a vocalist and guitarist with a deep understanding of Latin music.

**Speaker:** H.E. Dr. José Fernández de Cossío, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to Japan  
**Date:** December 14, 2009  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 2nd floor, Nippon Foundation Building

**Current Status and Challenges of the New Influenza Strain**  
Emergency Report by Professor Hitoshi Oshitani

SPF held an emergency meeting with the ambassador of Samoa to Japan when a massive, 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck Samoa on September 29, 2009, causing severe damage. The ambassador gave the latest information on the situation and the extent of the damage inflicted.

**Speaker:** H.E. Leiala Tuilolola Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Independent State of Samoa to Japan  
**Date:** October 7, 2009  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 2nd floor, Nippon Foundation Building

In advance of the general election expected in Myanmar in 2010, the international community is looking closely at conditions in the country today and the outlook for the future. The ambassador of Myanmar to Japan addressed these topics and the future of bilateral relations between the two countries.

**Speaker:** H.E. Hla Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Japan  
**Date:** October 9, 2009  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 2nd floor, Nippon Foundation Building

**India-Japan Economic Cooperation**  
Current Engagement and Future Prospects

**Current Situation and Future Prospects in Myanmar**  
Speech by Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan

**The 80th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Cuba**  
Speech by Ambassador of Cuba to Japan and Cuban Music Night

* For information on future events, see: http://www.spf.org/e/event/