Researcher Position (Postdoctoral Fellow) in Radar Ecology at the Biosphere Informatics Lab., Kyoto University

The Biosphere Informatics Laboratory (Kyoto University) is seeking a postdoc researcher to take a leading role in the 7-year project “Pioneering the Discipline of Radar Aeroecology for the Global Study and Conservation of Airborne Animals” funded by JST Souhatsu/FOREST. This project aims at developing methods to analyze radar maps in order to study movements in the aerosphere (of birds, insects, and bats esp.) at regional scales. The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Christian E. Vincenot at the Biosphere Informatics Laboratory (see www.vincenot.biz and www.batresearch.net). The contract will initially run until the end of March 2022, with annual renewal for the 7-year duration of the project upon satisfying performance.

The main research duty will consist in finding ways to extract biological information from radar data and apply them to ecological study cases. More exhaustively, the researcher’s work will include the following tasks:

i. take a leading role in this JST project and co-advice PhD students working on it
ii. develop software to import maps and algorithms to analyze them
iii. apply the developed methods to undertake ecological studies in collaboration with lab members and external collaborators
iv. develop new radar-based technologies and possible coupling with embedded systems
v. assist in networking the community

Job title: Program-Specific Researcher

Number of positions: 1

Job description: You will pursue your research agenda in line with the project's flexible goals. In this frame, you will have ample opportunities to propose not only new methods but also new study topics and carry them out. Interaction with other lab projects (see http://bre.soc.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp), although not mandatory nor expected, will be possible. As the project is 7-year long with a midterm evaluation in the third year, efficiency and productivity are a must. In return, peace of mind is insured by the project duration, and you can expect to boost your research profile very quickly.

You need a Ph.D. degree (or to be close to completion) and a proven publication record to apply. Experience of or strong interest in active interdisciplinary collaboration (esp. between computer science,
ecology, and engineering) is highly desirable. The annual gross salary is determined according to the rules of Kyoto University based on your qualifications. Insurances are covered according to the rules of the hiring institutions.

**Required qualifications:** The successful candidate must meet the following qualifications.

- a Ph.D. degree (obtained or close to completion).
- motivated, perseverant, creative, and demonstrate initiative and the ability to work both independently with limited supervision and collaboratively.
- sufficient communication skills in oral/written English to discuss verbally research and submit papers to high profile international journals. Additional proficiency in Japanese will be considered a major asset.
- well-versed in software engineering and an expert of one of the following areas:
  - AI / Data Mining / Machine Learning
  - Signal or Image Processing
  - Radar Engineering
  - Embedded Systems
  - Remote Sensing
  - Ecology, but only with very solid coding skills and technical abilities

Note that we are an equal opportunity employer in the sense that applicants will be evaluated based solely on their qualifications, experience, skills and personality, while other factors (e.g., sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, religion) will be strictly disregarded. Hence, we do not discriminate against any groups yet do not promote Anglo-Saxon “affirmative action”-style recruitment. Handicaps and life events (e.g., childcare leave, military duties) will, however, be duly taken into consideration when assessing applicants.

**Starting date:** as soon as possible (no later than October 2021)

**Contract term:** 1 year, with the possibility of annual extension up to 5 years. We look for somebody to carry out this project during its full duration. Hence, we very much intend to renew the contract unless the researcher’s performance proves insufficient. We will consider longer-period contract as well as promotion to Project Assistant Professor during the course of the project depending on the performance and skills demonstrated by the researcher.

**Probation period:** 6 months
**Working conditions:** The position will be based on Kyoto University’s Yoshida Main Campus (Kyoto, Japan) for the time being. Yet, remote work part of the year might be arranged in case the selected candidate proves particularly reliable. Working hours: 38 hours 45 minutes per week under a flexible-hours system.

**Salary and benefits:** To be determined in accordance with the existing employment regulations of Kyoto University.

**Social insurance:** Eligible for MEXT* mutual aid association membership, employees' pensions, employment insurance, and workers’ compensation insurance. *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

**Application and inquiry:**
Applications should be sent via email to vincenot @ i.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace @ with @), with the subject “Souhatsu Researcher Job Application”. Please combine in a single PDF file
- your CV,
- a short description (max. 1 page) of experience and skills
- a short description (max. 1 page) of why you believe to be an appropriate candidate for this position (i.e. relevance to the project),
- a publications list (a link to Researchgate, Google Scholar, Loop or other online similar platforms is also accepted),
- two representative papers, and
- the contact of two references (name, position, affiliation, email contact, and relationship with the applicant).

Inquiries should also be sent via email to vincenot @ i.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace @ with @) with the subject “Souhatsu Researcher Job Inquiry”.

**Application deadline:** Open until the position is filled. Note that the position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is found. Hence, if you plan on applying, please make sure to send as soon as possible a short email to already notify of your intent to submit the full application package later on. After receiving the complete application, we will contact you for further material and interview, provided that we find sufficient relevance in your application.

**Others:**
Personal information that is provided in an application will not be used for any other purpose than screening for employment. They will be destroyed following selection. Smoking is prohibited in any indoor and outdoor areas of the Kyoto University campus, except for designated smoking areas.