Researcher Position in Ecological Informatics at the Biosphere Informatics Lab., Kyoto University

The Biosphere Informatics Laboratory (Kyoto University) is seeking a Postdoctoral Researcher (or alternatively Research Engineer) to take an active role in the 2-year project “Human-Wildlife Harmony in Society 5.0” funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications under the SCOPE framework. This project aims at developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Machine Learning methods to analyze animal movements tracked using IoT/Biologging devices and implement a system to forecast and alert of impending risks of encounters with wildlife that threaten humans or agriculture. The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Christian E. Vincenot (see www.vincenot.biz and www.batresearch.net). The contract will run until the end of March 2023 and can be either part- or full-time, depending on candidate profile and availability.

The main research duty will consist in developing a system to predict encounters. More exhaustively, the researcher’s work will include the following tasks:

i. take a leading role in all aspects of this project
ii. develop a smartphone app and related backend to display animal movements and alert of intrusions into populated areas
iii. train AI or Machine Learning approaches to forecast wildlife movements based on collected data
iv. present results at conferences and write scientific papers

Job title: Program-Specific Researcher(full-time) or Researcher (Part-Time) or Assistant Technical Staff (part-time), depending on qualifications.

Number of positions: 1

Job description: You will pursue your research agenda in line with the project's goals. Participation in fieldwork and interaction with other lab projects (see http://bre.soc.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp), although not mandatory nor expected, will be possible if you wish. As the project will be running for two years, efficiency and productivity are a must. In return, you can expect to boost your research profile very quickly.

You need a proven publication record to apply. Experience of or strong interest in active interdisciplinary collaboration (esp. between computer science and ecology) will be considered an asset. 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 Master’s or Ph.D. degree (obtained or close to completion). Note that the candidate holding only a Master’s degree will be hired as “Research Engineer” or similar.
- 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
  - 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: (Postdoctoral Fellow) 1 year, with the possibility of extension until March 2023.
(Research Engineer) Until 31 March 2022. (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. Depending on continued funding, we will consider longer-period contract based on the performance and skills demonstrated by the researcher.

Probation period: (full-time) 6 months, (part-time) none.

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. Number of working hours can be negotiated from an hourly basis up to full time.
(full-time): 38 hours 45 minutes per week, part-time: until 30 hours per week and 7 hours per day (excluding
Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, year-end and New Year holidays, and Foundation Day).

**Salary and benefits:** To be determined in accordance with the existing employment regulations of Kyoto University.
Researcher (Part-Time): 1,900-3,900 yen per hour
Assistant Technical Staff (part-time): 950-1,600 yen per hour

**Social insurance:** (full-time) MEXT* mutual aid association membership, employees' pensions, employment insurance, and workers’ compensation insurance. *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.
(part-time) Workers' compensation insurance. Health insurance, employee's pension insurance and employment insurance depending on employment status.

**Application and inquiry:**
Applications should be sent via email to vincenot □ i.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace □ with @), with the subject “SCOPE 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 “SCOPE 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.