



## Almost four years, not too long, not too short

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When I came to Okazaki four years before, I was surprised how it is different with my imagination. Japan is the second top advanced country in the world. As I known Japan from newspaper and television there are a lot of skyscraper and endless traffic. But in Okazaki when I ride bike to JASCO or more longer trip to Nanbu Shimin Kaikan, about 30 minutes trip, I even not see a traffic police! All in order, all of people keep rules consciously. Also here is neat, quiet and peace though the drama of television full fill with the murder events.

It was the end of 1999 when I start my Ph. D course in IMS under Prof. Urisu's guidance. He kindly helped me manage everything. Also the foreign secretary Ms. Nagasono Hisayo help me a lot to obtain the certificate of alien registration and health insurance card. All other staffs showed their hospitality and kindness to foreigner. "Ready To Help" of their mentality make all visitors enjoy their living here.

My research topic is using FT-IR to investigate the reaction on Si(100) surface. When first time entering the UVSOR (Ultraviolet Synchrotron Orbital Radiation) facility I was shocked by this tremendous machine. Later I was shocked again when I visit the SPring-8 in Himeji, the biggest synchrotron radiation facility in the world. The big high vacuum chambers and many researchers who came from different universities or institutes made the underground room hot and busy. UVSOR staffs worked very hard even in midnight to maintain the synchrotron radiation machine keep good condition. Also many professors here keep working to midnight

impressed me that Japanese are the hardest worker in the world.

The language is always thought as a boundary for foreigners. But here it is little of problem. One is we can communicate using English, the other is that here it has a language support system. Okazaki is a traditional culture city. There are a lot of free Japanese training classes. The famous OIA (Okazaki International Association) Japanese class, the Yamasa Japanese class, Nanbu Shimin Japanese class *etc.* help us a lot to learn Japanese. Although we can not master a foreign language within short term, but it help us know a lot about Japan from life, culture and customs. Also I am so lucky I can read a lot of Kanji without any problem. Most of the meaning is same as Chinese. And the university also give us a 2 month Japanese training class every year. Now I can read and talk a lot of Japanese. It is my another goal to improve my Japanese writing ability.

Life in Okazaki is convenient. There are many supermarkets with abundant foods, fruits and other goods. Using a bike you can reach them within ten minutes. Sometimes go shopping is pleasant journal after daily working. Also I am a little bit sad when I see most of them are really expensive.

The scenery in IMS and Okazaki is very beautiful. When sakura blossom you know spring is coming. The scene is a perfect dream when you see the sun rising slowly in the east. The pleasant time is passing through a red Koyo forest in autumn. The snow in winter recall me my memory of childhood since it isn't snow for more

then 10 years in Shanghai, my hometown.

The study and research circumstance in IMS is very good. The state-of-the-art scientific equipments give you the opportunity to do most modern research. The library is not big but fill with abundant references and literatures which you can expend unlimited through various online services by Internet. From the intranet you can reserve a typical machine for your experiment. Also the staffs will help you using these machines carefully. Collaboration here is not only between groups but also extend to another universities, institutes as well as companies. Though these efficient systems the research limitation is only depending on your ideal.

I have chance to use IMS supercomputer for theoretical calculation. It is a really nice experience collaborated with theoreticians. Their preciseness and new angle of view gave me new ideal considering the experiment again. Now the collaboration is going on and makes more products as we wish.

Here I must thank Prof. Urisu again for his kind help. He also taught me the experimental skills and the joy of doing surface science experiments precisely. It will always be a great pleasure for me to cherish my association with him.

I sincerely thank Dr. Nonogaki Youichi who is an Assistant Professor in our group. He has helped me a lot in many of my experiments and related activities. I have had many experimental and personal discussions with him and got benefited to a great extent.

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