

IMS 2006

The newly established National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), the parent organization of The Institute for Molecular Science, has entered its third year.

In the current unfortunate trend that society does not attach much importance to “basic sciences,” we have to strive to appeal to the public for recognizing the significance. After the incorporation of national universities and institutes, this has become one of the most important roles that the Inter-University Research Institutes (IURIs) like IMS should play. In order to explain the roles and significance of IURIs, we have written up “What is an IURI?” and put it on the home page.

Currently at the IMS the following four special programs are successfully going on, although the supports should further be strengthened: (i) Extreme Photonics in collaboration with RIKEN, (ii) COE of molecular and materials simulations as a joint research program of NINS, (iii) Nanotechnology support project, including the joint research initiatives using the cutting-edge 920 MHz NMR machine, and (iv) Development of nano-science simulations for the “Grand Challenge Applications” in the Petaflops super-computer project.

The IMS international collaboration program has gotten on the track and many fruitful collaborative researches are now underway. In addition, the new Asian Core Program has been approved. This enables us to conduct collaborative researches among Asian countries and also to bring up young Asian scientists.

In order to confront the present severe financial circumstances, we are planning to establish a network with universities so that we can work together to purchase new and revive old experimental equipments efficiently.

In order to convince the society of the importance of basic sciences and also to repay the government support, it is essential to conduct excellent research as a Center of Excellence. All members of IMS must strive to further their studies.

This volume of Annual Review is a comprehensive summary of research activities carried out at the IMS in the period of September 2005–August 2006. As usual, a lot of activities are going on and we are proud of that. Any constructive comments and/or questions are heartily welcome. It is also a great pleasure to announce that many colleagues received various prizes as explained in the end of this volume.

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