



This is the fourth year of our new parent organization NINS (National Institutes of Natural Sciences). The severe financial circumstances are still continuing, unfortunately, because of the tight financial condition of the government. In spite of this we always have to strive to conduct excellent research at IMS as a Center of Excellence.

From April 2007 we have reorganized the structure of IMS into four Departments and seven Research Centers. The four departments include Department of Theoretical and Computational Molecular Science, Department of Photo-Molecular Science, Department of Materials Molecular Science, and Department of Life and Coordination-Complex Molecular Science. This reorganization is to meet recent developments of various branches of molecular science and to promote closer contacts and fruitful collaborations not only inside each department but also among the departments. The Research Centers play important roles, as usual, to offer their facilities to researchers inside and outside the institute. In order to enhance its function each Research Center is now associated with the corresponding department.

The four special programs of IMS are successfully to be continued: (i) Extreme photonics in collaboration with RIKEN, (ii) COE of molecular and materials simulations as a joint program of NINS, (iii) Nano-network project, including the joint research initiative using the cutting-edge 920MHz NMR, and (iv) Nano-science simulations for the “Grand Challenge Applications” of the national project of Petaflops super-computer. As for the international collaboration, in addition to the general program the Asian Core Program in Molecular Science started last fiscal year to promote collaborations and bring up young Asian scientists. In this fiscal year, the second annual meeting is to be held in Korea and the second winter school is planned in Okazaki in addition to many research collaborations.

The nationwide new network system has started as a test for efficient mutual use of experimental equipments covering 72 national universities. We really hope that this system will be strongly supported, since this is crucial to keep and promote basic research activities in Japan.

This volume of Annual Review is a comprehensive summary of research activities carried out at IMS in the period of September 2006-August 2007. During this period some people have left and some new people joined us, as listed in each research group. As usual, a lot of research activities are going on and we are proud of that. Any constructive comments and/or questions are welcome. It is also a great pleasure to announce that many colleagues received various prizes as explained in each research group and the end of this volume.

September, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Nakamura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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