



This is the last year of the first term of incorporation (privatization) of all the National Universities and Inter-University Research Institutes. Thanks to the efforts of all the staff members of IMS, we have enjoyed the high ranking evaluation. However, the severe conditions of academic research in Japan are still continuing, being badly affected also by the financial crisis.

The six special programs of IMS are going well and some nice achievements have been attained so far. These six programs are (i) Nano-science simulations for the “Grand Challenge Applications” of the next generation supercomputer project, (ii) Nano-network project, including the joint research initiative using the cutting-edge 920MHz NMR, (iii) Extreme photonics in collaboration with RIKEN, (iv) COE of molecular and materials simulations as a joint program of NINS, (v) Quantum Beam Development Program in collaboration with Kyoto University and Nagoya University, and (vi) Networked Laboratories for the Frontiers of Photon Science and Technology in collaboration with Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Osaka University and Kyoto University.

The network system for efficient and mutual use of experimental equipments covering 72 universities has been financially supported by the 2009-fiscal year government subsidiary budget. Thirty six new equipments will be installed at thirty two national universities including IMS.

In addition to the Asian Core Program, our JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) program has been approved by JSPS and active young scientists have been invited to IMS from various East Asian countries to carry out collaborative researches. Based on these activities we want to eventually establish an Asian Molecular Science Research Center at IMS.

In this 2009 fiscal year two new faculty members have joined us: Associate Professor Yuji Furutani of Division of Biomolecular Sensing, Department of Life and Coordination-Complex Molecular Science, and Associate Professor Hisashi Okumura of Research Center for Computational Science. In spite of the continuing unfortunate financial situation of academic research in Japan, we always have to strive to carry out excellent original researches at IMS as a Center of Excellence.

This volume of Annual Review is a summary of research activities performed at IMS in the period of September 2008–August 2009. 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 this volume.

This is actually the last year of my director-ship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of IMS and also many people outside the institute for having supported me in many respects. I really hope that the financial situation will be substantially improved and many more wonderful researches will be carried out in future.

September, 2009

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

NAKAMURA, Hiroki
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