

Okazaki Conference

The 70th Okazaki Conference

Molecular Mechanism of Photosynthetic Energy Conversion: The Present Research and Future Prospects

(December 4–6, 2010)

Organizers: M. Sugiura (*Ehime Univ.*), T. Nagata (*IMS*), H. Ishikita (*Kyoto Univ.*), Y. Kato (*Univ. Tokyo*), H. Mino (*Nagoya Univ.*)

Invited Overseas Speakers: J. Murray (*Imperial College*), A. Boussac (*CEA Saclay*), J. Messinger (*Umea Univ.*) R. Debus (*UC Riverside*), A. Holzwarth (*Max-Planck Inst.*), E.-W. Knapp (*Free Univ. Berlin*), F. Rappaport (*Inst. Biol. Phys. Chim.*), G. Fleming (*UC Berkeley*), W. Hillier (*Aust. Natl. Univ.*)

The 70th Okazaki Conference was held on Dec. 4–6, 2010 in Okazaki Conference Center. We had about 100 participants including 25 invited speakers and 27 poster presenters. The purpose of this conference was to provide a forum where researchers from various fields related to photosynthesis come together and exchange their idea.

Photosynthesis has been the focus of interest of many researchers since the emergence of modern science. During

the last two decades, remarkable progress has been made. Many of the key proteins in photosynthesis have their structures unveiled by X-ray crystallography, and also the dynamic aspects of these biomolecules are revealed by various other techniques such as ultrafast spectroscopy and magnetic resonance. On the other hand, from the view point of chemistry, we are still far from being able to reconstruct photosynthesis in our hands. Nevertheless, building up artificial photosynthetic systems on the basis of our knowledge about natural system is a worthwhile goal.

In this conference, hot debates were held on topics at the forefront of photosynthesis research, not only by the experts in the particular field, but also involving researchers from other fields. Such kind of crossover discussion should be extremely important in our deeper understanding complex systems like photosynthesis. We hope, in the near future, the new knowledge and friendship shared by the participants of this conference will lead to emergency of new approach in photosynthesis research.



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