



Impressions of my stay in IMS last year

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I spent three wonderful months (September–November, 2011) in IMS Okazaki, collaborating with Professor Masahiro Ehara of the Computational Chemistry Division. The intellectual stimulus generated by my continuous interactions with him and his colleagues, notably Professor Yanai has been deep and pervasive, which I will cherish forever. Professor Nagase had been a very pleasant company too. My stay was further enriched by the visit of other scientists from abroad, and the international meetings organized by IMS. I enjoyed the chat over lunch sessions, daily post-lunch and afternoon coffee with Masahiro and sharing chocolates with his students. The students were very kind and friendly, though sometimes communication had been a bit of a problem. The secretaries and the staff were invariably helpful and very kind.

I have been in IMS several times before, but my last visit had been the longest. The international character of IMS has been less apparent to me this time. Perhaps the colleagues may think of invit-

ing more scientists from abroad? The international character of an Institute like IMS had been a great strength and perhaps this can be kept in mind? This has a synergistic effect, whose benefit we are all aware of.

A special trait, which impressed me very deeply, is the ambiance of easy informality which permeates all the strata of the people of IMS. I want to believe that this is a quality intrinsic to the culture of IMS, which does not depend on the closeness of relations with the visitor. I had known Masahiro and Takeshi for years, but the colleagues I met for the first time had all been very informal and approachable—altogether a very memorable experience. Last, but certainly not the least, my stay in IMS was made all the more enjoyable by the care and concern of the Director General Professor Ohmine—an old friend of mine—who took personal interest in my welfare and took time out to show me around.