Between late spring and mid-summer of 2012, I spent three months at the Institute of Molecular Science as a visiting professor to the famed Institute of Japan. This was really my second visit to IMS. The earlier one was for about a month in 1994 but that had faded completely from my memory, except the memory of my two hosts, Professor Iwao Ohmine, now the Director General and Prof. Shinji Saito, then a student and now a well-known Professor and Chairman of a department and Director of computer center.

I am not new to Japan and Japan is not new to me. But I still feel very warm towards this country may be because of many friends I have, their sincerity and affection and also of many fond memories that this country holds for me. As a non-vegetarian Indian (who also drinks) food and culture have never posed any difficulty to me.

Like previous years, this year also I visited many places, including Nara and Kyoto. My hosts were extremely kind to take the whole family to several interesting and beautiful places, as shown in the attached pictures.

Science was also great – we could do a lot of work, as the hosts, especially Prof. Saito could spend a lot of time working with me. Prof. Ohmine, although ever busy, often dropped in to discuss problems. Our secretary Kondo san (Ms. Nao Kondo) was ever helpful.

One can really enjoy working in the quiet and congenial atmosphere of IMS. Okazaki is a perfect place for an Institute of this type and one must congratulate the founding fathers for their foresight. Okazaki also has a lot of old history and nice temples which we enjoyed. Both my wife and my son really liked their visit. We shall remember this trip for many days to come.