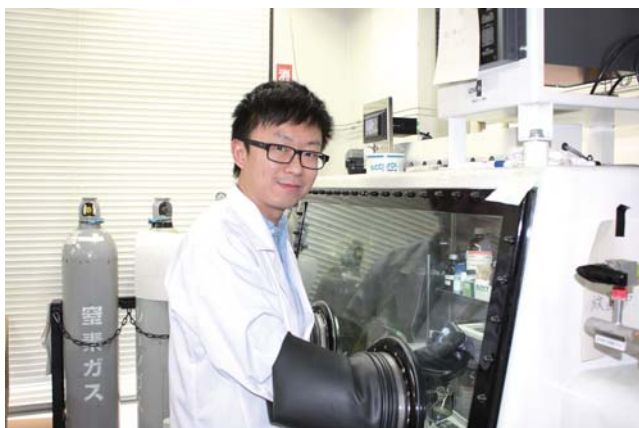


COLUMN



Memorable internship experience at IMS

Louis Lee Sze Koon,
University of Malaya, Malaysia

A great opportunity came to me in October 2014. Prof. Yamamoto and Prof. Sakurai had given me a chance to participate in the IMS International Internship Program (IMS-IIP) for 6 months. Japan is a beautiful country that I always wanted to visit, and it was my first time to visit Japan. Indeed, the winter and spring scenery in Japan is altogether fascinating! I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Masaoka and Assistant Prof. Dr. Kondo, whose expertise, understanding, and patience, added considerably to my internship experience. Furthermore, I could not have completed my work without the help from Dr. Praneeth, Dr. Nakamura, lab mates, and lab assistants. Masaoka group's members are friendly, energetic, and extremely helpful, and we had wonderful memories during working and partying hours. My internship project was focused on the electrocatalytic reduction of CO₂ using ruthenium polypyridine complex. Great experience during the internship brought my decision to pursue PhD study under the supervision of Prof. Masaoka.

Basically, the internship program has provided almost everything

for international student; financial support by JASSO scholarship, comfortable accommodation, and Japanese language lesson, which enable international student to adapt to Japanese life and culture easily. In addition, the participation in SOKENDAI Asian Winter School Conference was a very rewarding experience being able to interact with researchers from other countries and absorb new knowledge.

IMS is an excellent institute for conducting high impact research, with a number of internationally reputed research groups, advanced instruments, and supportive administration staffs. It is situated in Okazaki city, a peaceful city endowed with rich history, well-preserved historical landmarks, and contemporary residential architectures. Moreover, the location of IMS is very strategic being near to Higashi-Okazaki train station and shopping malls, and it takes only approximately 30 minutes to Nagoya city by train.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the IMS-IIP committee members. "Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind"—Seneca. I believe that the IMS-IIP will continue to enrich the exposure of

foreign researchers, and foster quality collaboration with universities around the world.

IMS International Internship Program

Louis GOUILLART,
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As part of the education for scientists, the internship at a research institute is crucial for personal development, experience of the research world and scientific knowledge. I am fully convinced my internship in IMS is currently providing me all of these essential features.

I am a French Master's student from "Chimie ParisTech", one of the major schools of Chemical Science and Engineering in France. A 5-year partnership was recently renewed between IMS and Chimie ParisTech, giving French students the opportunity to complete research internships in IMS. Thanks to this collaboration, I was accepted for a five month internship from 2015 April, 23rd to August, 21st in Prof. Akiyama group, division of Trans-Hierarchical Molecular Systems, CIMoS. As part of this research group working on the molecular mechanisms of the cyanobacterial circadian clock, I was able to learn a lot about Biochemistry and I discovered many new experimental techniques at the lab.

Before my arrival in IMS, I did not know what to expect of Japan and

of my internship. It was somehow unsettling as almost everything was new to me here in Japan. However everyone I encountered in IMS was very friendly, helping me and providing all the necessary information. On top of that, I quickly found myself taking part in various events held at IMS: symposiums, welcome parties and so on. Thanks to this I had the opportunity to meet new people and discover more of Japanese culture. My five months stay at IMS also allowed me to discover Japan's cultural heritage and to visit multiple areas and city of Japan, from Nagoya to Kyoto and Osaka, as well as Tokyo's huge metropolis.

I am very grateful to everyone that worked toward making my internship a reality. I would like to warmly thank Prof. Ohmine, Director General of IMS and Prof. Akiyama for giving me the opportunity to complete this internship, Dr. Mukaiyama as well as everyone from Prof. Akiyama group who helped me and trained me during my internship, the Foreign Affairs Division of IMS for organizing and planning my stay in Japan and Prof. Aka from Chimie ParisTech. Many

thanks to all for bringing me this amazing experience.