



A Visiting Professor at the IMS

Prof. Martin Katora The Charles University



In the beginning, I should say right away that I am not a newcomer to the Institute of Molecular Science (IMS) or as it is called in Japanese Bunshikagakukenyujo (abbreviated as Bunshiken). The institute has paid an important role not only in my scientific career but also in my personal life and started my lifelong affection for Japan and its culture. The IMS has always been a very interesting and stimulating place to work. The same, of course, applies also to people who work there. I am glad for the opportunity that allowed me to spend 3 month in the institute again 25 years after my first experience with it. In fact, coming back to the IMS was feeling like coming home after a long period of time.

My relationship with the IMS began in early 90s by a fortunate twist of events that have changed the course of my life in an unforeseeable manner. I was then awarded a JSPS fellowship that enabled me to join the group of Tamotsu Takahashi, who was then in his early career in the area of organometallic chemistry. Immediately after my arrival I was fascinated by intensive working drive and attitudes in his group. All the group members were working very hard long hours as well as over weekends. Nonetheless, despite of this all of us considered this environment something natural and motivating, and were happy to keep such a working pace. During 2 years of my stay in the IMS I had a plenty of opportunity to meet many scientists coming not only from different parts of Japan but also from foreign countries. Since then I have been in touch with many of them. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to mention all of colleagues and friends.

This time I came to the IMS as a visiting professor in Yasuhiro Uozumi's research group. This visit gave me an opportunity see what has changed in the institute over

the quarter of the century. Well, fortunately nothing: the working atmosphere still highly motivating and inspiring, and scientific achievements are as good as ever. The IMS provides exceptional environment to carry out excellent research, where a number of internationally reputed research groups thrive, it is equipped with the state of the art instruments, as well as supportive administration staffs.

Although Okazaki could be considered a small town in comparison with other Japanese cities, it has rich history (birthplace of Ieyasu Tokugawa and one of the stations on the Tokaido Road to mention a few) , well kept historical landmarks, and contemporary residential architecture. Moreover, IMS is strategically located near Higashi-Okazaki train station and one can reach Nagoya with 30 minutes by train. In general, it is a pleasant place to live.

I still keep and will keep memories of pleasant days in the IMS. Writing of this essay gives me an opportunity to express my gratitude toward the people in IMS who were always eager to make stay in Okazaki as pleasant as possible. Their warm hospitality, and above all, of Uozumi-sensei and his group members who made my stay in IMS a happy period in my life.

