



Impression on Okazaki and IMS

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It is a great pleasure to share good memories at Institute for Molecular Science (IMS) and Okazaki city. I received the great opportunity to work at IMS as an internship student for six months (October 2014 – March 2015). I joined the research group of Prof. Toshihiko Yokoyama, and I conducted research on structural and oxidation state analyses of transition metal oxides supported on bovine bone through the use of X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS). I really do appreciate kind helps and invaluable comments/suggestions by Prof. Yokoyama and the group members. Thanks to their supports, I was able to gain useful information and to expand my understanding of the relationship between materials properties and their catalytic activities, which is one of the key issues in my doctoral dissertation. Additionally, I would like to thank the group secretaries and the IMS staffs for their kind and supportive cooperation.

Apart from the above-described excellent academic activities, I would like to say, “I love Okazaki city,” where I was impressed with the beautiful landscapes and the Japanese lifestyles. Also, I had good chances to visit many places and enjoy traditional festivals in Japan during the internship period.

Almost two years later, Prof. Yokoyama again provided me with the great opportunity to further develop my research experience as a postdoctoral researcher at IMS

(December 2016 –). The research project has focused on the investigation of the oxidation states and chemical constituents of Pt-based electrocatalysts in polymer electrolyte fuel cells under operating conditions. For this purpose, we have been employing the near ambient pressure hard X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. I am honored to be a member of the research group led by Prof. Yokoyama in the excellent national research institute, IMS.

Only because IMS is my first affiliation after receiving my doctoral degree, I could acquire invaluable research experiences, great opportunities to develop my professional skills, and effective approaches to be a capable researcher. Consequently, I believe that the research experience and knowledge that I have obtained at IMS give me a shining confidence that I am able to greatly contribute to scientific achievements and the society as a researcher and instructor in the next future career opportunity. IMS and Okazaki will be my good memory forever.