



Okazaki through the eyes of a Frenchy

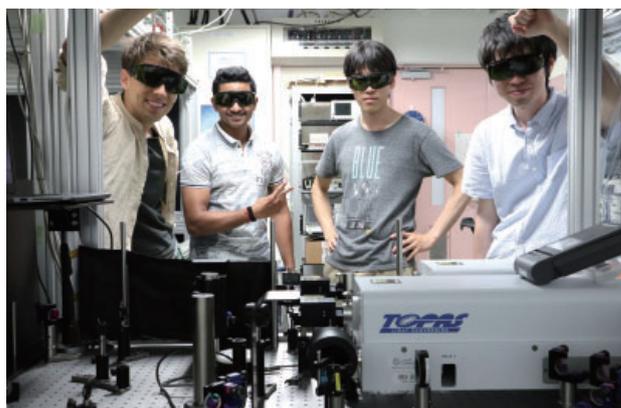
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It has now been more than one year and a half since I arrived in Okazaki in March 2019 to work in the group of Prof. Ohmori. This was my second time moving to Japan after a one-year stay in 2015 for my master thesis on quantum teleportation of light at the University of Tokyo. I deeply enjoyed this first experience of a lifestyle in Japan. In between, I had been living in Paris and completed my PhD thesis on building a rudimentary quantum machine of a few tens of qubits (quantum bits) made of individual atoms trapped in optical tweezers. As you might have guessed, I specialize in the field of quantum and atomic physics and I love to build and run experiments. So, when I learnt that Prof. Ohmori was starting a new experiment in this field at IMS, I did not hesitate much before jumping in the plane to come back to Japan.

Moving in was made frankly easy by the administration here. I remember having more trouble when I previously moved back to France, my own country!, than in Japan despite being unable to read the obscure administrative documents. What I expected to be complex procedures to get a visa or a health insurance card were turned into simple formalities with the help of the administration at the Institute and our group secretary. Many thanks to them!

At work, things got in motion immediately. The other team members were already here or arrived at the same time, and we quickly learnt to appreciate each other. The working conditions are ideal with everything an experimentalist needs to build stuff: reliable infrastructure (not a single power, air-conditioning or IT failure since I arrived), a renovated mechanical workshop, a helpful crew of mechanics, electronics or laser experts, and an efficient purchase section. With colleagues and students from various depart-



The leftmost person is the author.

ments, we also started a weekly one-hour Python discussion club: everybody from beginner to experts is welcome to join us.

After spending quite a few years in scientific campuses exiled in the middle of the countryside, I really appreciate to be located in a city center. Our buildings are just a five-minute walk away from the train station and its street of restaurants, izakaya and karaoke: perfect to celebrate the various lab events or to simply break the routine by having a lunch outside with colleagues. To clear the head after a working day, I enjoy joining the IMS badminton club, or have a tennis game (or even a futsal) on the campus court.

For the week-end, after days in the darkness of a lab, I just want to go outside and explore the region around Okazaki. On its east side, the city gives place to wooded hills where the Oto river, running through Okazaki, take its source at the Kuragari gorge: a perfect spot to chill during the summer. On the south side, within an hour you can hit the ocean and its beaches either at the Chita or Tahara peninsula that encloses the Mikawa bay. Of course, jumping in the Shinkansen or the highway quickly bring you anywhere in the Chubu (Central Japan) area from the National park of Ise-Shima to the Japanese Alps. I cannot list all the places that I want to visit, but I hope to find the time to enjoy them.