



Okazaki and IMS: a place to refresh and rising above

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I came to Okazaki in April, 2021 and joined IMS when the covid-19 pandemic was prevailing not only in Japan but also all over the world. After completing my job contract at Hokkaido university where I completed my Ph.D. and started my career as a postdoc, it was quite uncertain to move outside Japan due to covid situation. Thanks to Prof. Ryota Iino and IMS for selecting me to start my second job in Okazaki.

In my Ph.D. and postdoctoral research at Hokkaido University, I studied the construction of molecular swarm robot based on biomolecular motor protein system. This results helped me to think about the function of motor protein at the molecular level for the development of efficient molecular machine. In the annual meeting of biophysical society of Japan and other symposiums, I got the opportunity to attend Prof. Iino's talk on designing biomolecular machines and investigate their functions using high speed and high time resolution single molecule techniques. Therefore, I eagerly applied for the postdoctoral position when I saw the opening from his lab. I was happy to join Prof. Iino's lab (Molecular Machine Designing Lab) located at Yamate campus of IMS. Here, I started my research work on engineering motor protein kinesin-1 with synthetic polymer to create hybrid motor protein. The beautiful and peaceful environment of the lab and institute helped me to focus on my research work without worrying about rest of the world. I got all the facilities to explore my interest for single molecule study. Everyday discussion with Prof. Iino and other lab members greatly helped me to organize my research plan and execute it properly for which I could establish the hybrid motor protein research in a very short time.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Iino and Assist. Prof. Akihiro Otomo for their generous support in my research work. Dr. Otomo's friendly behavior always helped me to feel comfortable doing my research in the lab. I would like to thank the technical assistants making the protein purification work smooth for me. I am also grateful to

the secretary Ms. Kaori Nakane for her kind cooperation not only in the administrative process but also to settle down in Okazaki. Nevertheless, also the people from administration of IMS were very supportive for any kind of assistance related to job, visa extension, getting family visa and so on.

When I was missing the mesmerizing beauty and chilling cold weather of Hokkaido, on the other hand, I became happy to see the tropical weather of Okazaki which is similar to Bangladesh, my home country. Especially during the rainy season, whenever I saw the sparkle of thunder, the rainbow and heard the sound of rain, reminded me the rainy day of my country. Although due to covid it was quite difficult to travel outside of Okazaki, I enjoyed the lively environment of here. There are several cafes, park and big shopping mall near the faculty house where I used to live. I could go to those places by walking after lab and weekend for refreshment and daily purchase. I sometimes also visited Otagawa river side and Okazaki castle, a place to feel the culture and history of Japan. I enjoyed the cherry blossom festival there with my husband whom I met after two years of covid was one of the best memories.

I believe the valuable research experience in IMS will help me to enhance my research career in future. If I have the chance I would like to come here again for research and enjoy the serenity of Japan.

