



## The most precious memories of my life

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It has been four years since I came to Japan in October of 2018 and worked at Institute for Molecular Science (IMS). When I finished my PhD course at Xi'an Jiaotong University, China, in 2018 and faced a number of choices, I was so happy to receive the job offer from Prof. Masahiro Ehara to work at IMS as a postdoctoral researcher. I thought it was a great opportunity to enrich my research experience and to improve myself, so I started my new research at IMS. Actually, I had a short internship at the group of Prof. Ehara during my PhD period, and IMS is really a peaceful place to do research.

During my PhD study, I mainly worked on theoretical studies of fullerenes in terms of their geometric and electronic structures as well as their chemical activities. Since I joined the group of Prof. Ehara, I have learned more knowledge about other materials, such as carbon nanotubes, zeolites, and metal clusters. We focused on the unique electronic structures of these materials to disclose the catalytic activity and optical properties. Research in a new field is not easy, and I am so grateful that Prof. Ehara can always find time to discuss with me even though he is very busy. These discussions are indeed helpful to solve the problems effectively and proceed my research smoothly. It is also great that I can have access to many other computational packages and have a deeper understanding for density functional theory calculations. I believe the research experience at IMS will be very beneficial to my future carrier.

I also have great experience in my life at Okazaki. It is always wonderful for me to see different cultures



and beautiful landscapes. The cherry blossoming and the red maple leaves impressed me a lot. I also enjoyed the beautiful Otogawa river fireworks display and the delicious Japanese food. At the third year since I came to Japan, my husband and I have our first child. We were so excited to know this news, but it was tough to go through the whole pregnancy during the covid-19 pandemic. Also, my husband is working at Kyoto University, so I need to take care of myself. Fortunately, many people kindly helped me when I had trouble. Finally, our baby girl came to the world safely. I felt so happy when I saw her face. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Ehara, Sugimoto-san, and Nagasono-san for their support during my pregnancy. Now, my daughter is one year old, and we can walk around Otogawa river and nearby parks to enjoy our time in holidays. As she grows up, we will travel more places in Japan and make our beautiful memories. It is not easy to take care of a baby, but it becomes less stressful because of the help of many people. I believe these years at IMS would be the most precious memories of my life, and I will always keep it in mind.