developments in the chemistry, physics, materials science, and technology of crystalline molecular solids.

ISCOM2021 was postponed for a year due to Covid-19 restrictions, then this was held for the first time in three years. This symposium had fewer participants than the previous one. I made a poster presentation entitled “Giant spin polarization in a chiral molecular superconductor”, where spin accumulation emerging in an antiparallel pair created by CISS effect was discovered with a high polarization rate (see my poster above). I’m convinced that such research will open up new avenues for chiral spintronics.

Face-to-face symposium brings together worldwide senior and young scientists for frank discussions. This conference provided the participants with significant opportunities to exchange information and idea. And I thank SOKENDAI and IMS for their enormous financial support.

By the way, Shinkansen was halted due to a strong typhoon on the day of departure and I couldn't reach Haneda Airport. I had to change my flight and was not sure if I would be able to arrive there before the day of my presentation. After being stuck at Toyohashi station for more than six hours, I managed to book a new flight for another day and finally made it in time for my presentation session (even though I was two days behind schedule). It could have been worse, but luckily, I avoided “the perfect storm”.

受賞者の声

周 諭来（総合研究大学院大学 物理科学研究科 機能分子科学専攻 ５年一貫制博士課程３年）

In memory of graduation and the Sokendai Prize

I believe a person’s greatness lies in believing in the unseen, seeking the unseen, and creating the unseen. And this is what I hope to do using my life.

In the spring of 2017, packing my personal belongings and also my mother into the little cube car and crossing the Kanmon Straits, I headed for Aichi from the countryside of Kyushu to do my Ph.D. in IMS. It was just like the scene at the beginning of the Ghibli movie Totoro which I now feel nostalgic to remember that day.

In IMS as a Ph.D. student, I spent five and a half years observing and controlling ultrafast interaction between two single Rydberg atoms. I wrote my thesis on this topic and am grateful that the work was honored with the SOKENDAI prize. You may say that it doesn’t worth taking such a long time to do this research, but I think the study deserves it, and I like my work very much.

Actually, I was not an excellent student from the beginning. I didn’t know much about physics and also the experiment. I always feel very grateful to Ohmori sensei for accepting me as his student. There is nothing good about me from what you can see. But maybe Ohmori sensei has found something invisible that is not too bad inside me.

Currently, I am continuing to work with the apparatus I constructed during my Ph.D. When I designed it, I tried my best to make it a nice machine that could work for the next decades. I think this is one of the ways to show my gratitude to my sensei. At some point, I will leave IMS, and I believe the apparatus will keep on running even after I leave, which is still an unseen future event.

I hope to use some part of my life to catch what is still unseen, just like the catcher in the lab. I also wish to be someone who can find out some unseen brilliant things inside you and also inside me. Sometimes I wonder whether I would choose to go to Ph.D. in IMS if I could go back to 2017. The answer will definitely be yes. I will climb the hill passing through the path where the Sakura starts blooming and knocking on the door of Ohmori sensei, saying hi to him in a small voice.