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Dear Inaba-san,

It is my pleasure to recall a short visit in February 13 to 16th and the stay in summer from July 31st to August 28th in the *Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics*. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your taking care of our visit and my own stay.

Before ICTAC15 in the summer, I spent some time with Miyazaki-san in measurement of some samples. The rest of the time was used to prepare for the conference, in the last week of my stay. In this conference, I had an oral presentation, as you had heard that day, and two posters in the session of thermodynamics and thermochemistry. Thank you for your question and comment on my experiments in my oral presentation. I sat through all the other oral presentations in this session together with Nagano-san and Prof. Shen from East China University of Science and Technology. Thanks to Nagano-san's recommendation and the organizers of ICTAC15, I had an opportunity to chair the last four oral presentations in our session. This is the first time for me as a co-chair in an international meeting. Besides two posters of my own work, I also joined a poster with Miyazaki-san from the *Research Center*. The organizers of ICTAC15 are impressive as usual in Japan for their friendliness and assistance from the registration to activities in the meeting. The famous Nara sake and tunas provided by Kinki University in the mixers were left in my mouth of their tastes and freshness for quite a time. The music performance by Kinki University students was full of melody in the opening ceremony. The excursion to Nara Park was a nice time.

Following the schedule of the conference, I knew about a lot of advances in the field of thermal analysis and calorimetry from the plenary, invited lectures. Azuma-kun's oral presentation was good from his natural speak. I also enjoyed your talk of the experiments with Natalia and sensed a natural way of telling a story. Among the instruments display, I was more attracted by the Honda's thermobalance under the stairs of the lobby of November Hall. It was built long time ago but the principle does not change much in modern TG instruments. Ozawa's kinetic analysis method is a successful application of the TG technique. I was happy that I could meet and talk with researchers from other countries. Some Chinese researchers introduced their nice work in this meeting.



Honda's thermobalance and me, photo by Sun-san



A photo with the "lucky girls", by Miyazaki-san

I am grateful to your help in the short visit in spring for people from Northwest University (China), Prof. Yang, Prof. Xie and Mr. Zhu. That university has a long history in research of thermochemistry, particularly for rotating oxygen bomb calorimetry and thermal kinetics analysis. The group, led by Prof. GAO, has a project of constructing a minimized rotating bomb calorimeter. It should be a complicated work in accurate measurement of a sample of one or several milligrams. They know this lab has a static bomb calorimeter of a milligram sample, which was an excellent work by Nagano-san some years ago. In the discussion with the visitors, Nagano-san showed us all the parts of his micro-oxygen bomb calorimeter, explained the principles and answered the questions from them. He provided them the papers and even the blueprints of the calorimeter. He hoped a success of the visitors in their work. I really appreciate his help for sharing his rich experience in the micro-bomb calorimeter. All of these efforts already start to help them in their project.

Thanks to Azuma-kun for organizing the welcome party for us in spring and my own visit in summer. I was happy to meet Natalia, Suzuki-san, Yoshida-kun, Prof. Wasiutyński and the other students in the *Research Center* in spring. I was also glad to meet Piotr and

Suzuki-san again in the summer. I hope Suzuki-san's working place can recover to a normal environment in near future.



Discussion with Nagano-san; from left, Mr. Zhu, Prof. Yang, photo by Prof. Xie



Cooking Takoyaki in welcome party, photo by Prof. Xie

Thanks to Hosokawa-san for her help in our and my own visits in the *Research Center*. I would like to thank you for your talks with me during my stay.

Finally, let me express my gratitude for financial support from the *Research Center* for my stay in the summer as well as that in ICCT2010 and ISST2010. From these conferences, I become familiar with the field of thermal analysis and calorimetry in Japan and the world. In the same time, I also thought about my own work in China. This year I am happy that I get a grant from National Natural Science Foundation of China. My academic experience in Japan, the survey of literature in the lab helped me to initiate the idea of the proposal.

I wish you good health and the *Research Center* a lot of excellent work.

With best wishes,

Xiaozheng LAN

October 21st, 2012