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To:
Prof. Akira Inaba
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Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

Dear Inaba-san,

It is a great honor for me to write about my visit at the Research Center. My position as a visiting researcher started on January 15th 2010 and finished on March 31st 2012. It was my first time to live and work in Japan.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for the opportunity to work in your laboratory. I feel very lucky that I could collaborate with one of the best specialists in the field of calorimetry in one of the best universities in Japan.

These two years were very important time for my scientific career. I am especially thankful to you for giving me much freedom and in the same time for your constant advice during my work. Discussions with you helped me a lot to better understand the benefits of adiabatic calorimetry, thermodynamics, and molecular dynamics. I was mainly concentrated on the studies of phase behavior of materials in solid state using different physico-chemical methods like adiabatic calorimetry, thermal analysis, crystallography, and vibrational spectroscopy. I participated in many diverse projects, some of them have been already finalized and their results are published. I am very impressed with both the laboratory-made and high technology scientific equipment which I could use in the Research Center as well as in the Department of Chemistry of Osaka University. I also admire the methods of work in your laboratory where an important role plays precision, high quality and patience.

During my work at Osaka University I attended several international and domestic conferences (ICCT-2010, ISST-2010, JCCTA-2010, CATS-2011, 92nd annual meeting of CSJ). It was a great opportunity for me to meet and get to know other researchers and talk with well-known Japanese specialists in the field of calorimetry and thermodynamics like professors: Hiroshi Suga, Michio Sorai, Takasuke Matsuo, and Yasuhiro Nakazawa. It was also a unique privilege for me to see Their Majesties, the emperor and empress of Japan at the Opening Ceremony of the ICCT conference in 2010.

Apart from my involvement in work I could also learn about Japanese history, culture and cuisine. During different celebrations in your laboratory I could discuss many interesting issues with the members and international visitors, and I could try many traditional Japanese dishes like okonomiyaki, takoyaki, gyoza, sashimi, nabe and others. Japanese cuisine is very unique and of the best quality. I was also able to arrange some time to travel. Osaka has a very convenient location in Japan so that I enjoyed frequent trips to Kyoto, Kobe or Nara during weekends and

holidays. On these occasions I was always touched by Japanese hospitality and warmth towards me and other foreigners. Japanese people often asked me about Chopin's music and Krakow city. I have an impression that Japanese and Polish sensitivity and mentality are quite similar.

I am grateful to Miyazaki-san that I could take part in investigation of magnetic properties of a one dimensional rhodium complex. Our work was presented on one of the conferences we attended together. I am also very grateful for all talks we had about low-temperature properties of materials.

I would like to thank Nagano-san and Takajo-san for their initial assistance in operating DSC and TGA instruments and for help with other different issues connected with my work in laboratory. With Takajo-san I cooperated on the very interesting project connected with a diacetylene long chain compound.

I would like to thank Suzuki-san for helping me during sampling and using a PPMS relaxation-time calorimeter and sharing with me his deep knowledge about calorimetry. I appreciate the time he spent with me to show me Osaka and Kyoto and to explain Japanese customs and history. I can sincerely admit that my daily life as well as work in Japan was much easier because of him.

I would like to thank Yoshida-san for helping me in some difficulties connected with communication in Japanese language. As I was not good at it at all and his desk was next to me, he was often forced to speak English with me. Hopefully, it was not too annoying. I also remember him as a great organizer of many parties in our laboratory for group members including me. I enjoyed his welcome speeches very much.

I am also very happy I have met other visitors of the Research Center, professors: Koga-san and his wife, Shipra Baluja and her husband, Tadeusz Wasiutynski and Lan-san. I, prof. Shipra and her husband arrived to Japan on the same day and soon we lived very close to each other in the International House. Because of this we often organized a very enjoyable free time together.

Working at the Research Center I had also possibility to collaborate with other workers of Osaka University. I especially would like to thank prof. Yasukazo Hirao from Department of Chemistry. We worked together on crystal structures of some hexammine complexes in different phases. I think our cooperation was very successful. I am also very thankful to Mitsuo Ohama for his help during temperature measurements of IR and Raman spectra.

I also would like to write how much I appreciate the dinner I had with you, your wife Kyoko-san and Suzuki-san in your house. I will always remember the talk we had about science and the delicious food your wife prepared for me. I want to wish you both good health and happiness.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members, visitors and staff of the Research Center I could meet during my stay in Japan for all help, hospitality and creative atmosphere. May you have many more prosperous years to come.

With best wishes,

Natalia Górska

One of the first celebrations during my visit in Japan. Photo by Miyazaki-san.

Visiting a laboratory for manufacturing synthetic diamonds during the ICCT-2010 conference. Photo by Professor Baluja.