



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, 0506

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November 10, 1991

Professor Michio Sorai
Microcalorimetry Research Center
Faculty of Science
Osaka University
Toyonaka, Osaka 560 Japan

Dear Professor Sorai:

I wish to express my gratitude to you, Professor Suga, Emeritus Professor Seki, and the rest of the members of the Faculty of Science for graciously hosting myself and Professor Hendrickson during our visit to Japan. I am glad that the United States National Science Foundation and JSPS chose to fund our joint proposal so that we would have this opportunity to visit each other's institutions.

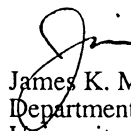
As you know, this was the first time that I had ever visited Japan. In addition to the University, Professor Hendrickson and I took several days to sightsee in Kyoto. Knowing only of Japan what I had read in books and seen in film, it was truly a pleasure to experience the rich cultural history of your country first-hand. I was most taken in by the impressive array of temples and shrines, and as well the resulting mix of old and new that is Kyoto. Perhaps most vivid in my mind is the visit to Nijo Castle - upon entering one really had the feeling of stepping back to the time when the castle was built. In the United States there is no comparable feeling of the deep cultural heritage that I felt while I was in Japan. I think this sense of history is the single most striking impression that I took away with me from my visit.

And, of course, I got a chance to sample Japanese cuisine for the first time! Although the restaurants were quite enjoyable - in particular the evening at the New Zealand House, the buffet for Emeritus Professor Seki, and our final dinner out with Professor Suga - I believe I enjoyed the wonderful meal at your home the most. Of all the varied foods that I tried while in Japan, the only one I might not try again in the near future was the sea urchin!

Lastly, but by no means least, were the splendid scientific exchanges which went on during our visit. Not knowing much about how thermodynamic studies are carried out, it was a true learning experience talking with the members of the Microcalorimetry Research Center. It is now clear to me why the reports from your laboratories are so highly regarded in the scientific community. Given my own research interests in inorganic photophysics and ultrafast kinetics, I also enjoyed immensely my discussions with Professor Ono and Professor Mataga.

My only regret was that the two weeks passed all too quickly. Although I will be moving on to a position at the University of North Carolina in a couple of months, I hope to maintain ties with my newfound friends and colleagues at Osaka University. Thank you again for a truly memorable time.

Best Regards,



James K. McCusker
Department of Chemistry
University of California, San Diego