

College of Chemistry and Material Science
Shandong Agricultural University
Taian, Shandong 271018, CHINA
Dr. X.Z.LAN, lanxzh@sdaa.edu.cn

Professor Akira INABA
Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics
Graduate School of Science
Osaka University
Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

Dear Inaba-san,

It is a pleasure to recall the days I spent in Osaka from March 31st 2007 to April 1st 2009. In the past two years I worked as a post-doc at the Research Center for Molecular Thermodynamics, now renewed as Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics. I am grateful to you for offering me the position two years ago and preparing a lot of documents for my coming. Under your help everything went on smoothly and I came here on schedule, finishing my first trip safely to Japan.

When you showed me around the lab after putting down luggage in hotel in the first evening, I was surprised to see so many calorimeters, each one with different structure and working principle. Before this time I had already known the performance of the in-house built adiabatic calorimeters here from the annual reports, which are highly precise as to detect the delicate interactions as the weak relaxation effect of glassy materials and motion changes of some atoms group in crystals, etc... In later days I could take a closer look at the calorimeters built by Sorai-san, Miyazaki-san and you. This is much satisfied my curiosities of how a good adiabatic calorimeter is well designed and assembled. If someday I can build a calorimeter for myself, I hope to borrow some ideas from your calorimeter.

By use of adiabatic and relaxation calorimeter in the lab, I started doing experiments with Miyazaki-san. Thanks to Professor Okada, Osaka City University, we measured heat capacities of molecule-based magnetic materials newly prepared in his group. It is interesting that our measurements found some behavior unknown to susceptibility test, for example double heat capacity peaks in $\text{TOTNN}^+\cdot\text{FeCl}_4^-$ and the thermal anomaly in high temperature above phase transition. This surely shows the charm of calorimetric study, to better understanding properties of condensed materials? The experiments were carried on during my stay. Part of the results of the cooperative work has already been published on JACS about a ferrimagnetic compound, $\text{NNDPP}^+\cdot\text{FeBr}_4^-$. For doing these experiments I would like to express my gratitude especially to Miyazaki-san for his knowledge in this field, his patience in discussion with me, his encouragement for my oral presentation in annual meetings. Besides this work Miyazaki-san and I also measured some Ni(III) samples my students prepared in China with one-dimensional magnetic interaction. This experiment is still continued

now for two more samples in this series. Apart from the daily experiments, I also joined seminars in the lab and annual meetings, which gave me a good chance to know other researchers' work here and in the calorimetric community in Japan. Their excellent work and serious attitude to experiment and for presentation are impressive. Exchanging ideas with them on those occasions is a good chance to learn from them. From these activities I became familiar with the professors of steering committee of the center, and people who had worked in the center or in Osaka. I saw Suga-san, Matsuo-san, Maeda-san in Sapporo, Atake-san, Saito-san, Yasuzuka-san in Tsukuba. I always benefit from the discussion with Sorai-san and Nakazawa-san in the lab or in my oral presentation during annual meeting, helping me understand deeper my work. In my second annual meeting at Tsukuba in 2008, I joined a young-researcher party and had a chance to sit beside and had a talk with Professor Atake and Dr. John H Dymond.

I am also thankful to your colleagues and the young men in the lab. They helped me a lot at the beginning of my stay in Osaka, Maruoka-san taking to Konan for shopping, he and Arai-san taking me to restaurant for dinner, he organizing a party for our three new comers. Suzuki-san told me how to use the digital map. Arai-san solved problems in my computer. In later days, I enjoyed a lot of parties organized by Shimada-san and Noda-san, including one especially for my daughter and my wife in the summer 2008. To prepare for these parties, we went out shopping together often by bicycle, a good time to be familiar with the neighbor area. At this time Takajo-san's drive always made the shopping a very easy work. Among this sweet-potato party in each autumn was a celebration of harvest for us, together with Nakazawa-san and his students. On enjoying their culinary skill I also learned to cooperate with them to finish the whole activity. Besides, I enjoyed the sightseeing with them to Otaru, Lake Shikotsu and Tokyo before annual meetings, to Amanohashidate before us five leaving Osaka. Shimada-san took me to Senso-ji Temple and Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo after meeting. Climbing mountains organized by Suzuki-san was a bit hard to me but a good exercise and a wonderful time to contact the beautiful nature. Special thank again to Suzuki-san for a lot of discussion on academic topics, having dinners together, taking care of calorimeter together and getting a certificate for me to the office of Chinese embassy in Osaka after I left here, etc...

It is always happy to meet visiting researchers to the center, Wang-san, Meingast-san, Koga-san, Professor R. K. Thomas, Piotr, Ewa. Lectures by Meingast-san, Professor Thomas broaden my eyes.

On weekends and holidays, I, together with my wife and my daughter when they came to Osaka to spend summer holiday, visited many places, scenic spots and temples in Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Himeji, Hikone and Koyasan. We found a lot of similarities between the two countries, especially both using the same characters though sometimes we had to guess their meaning. It is always funny to misunderstand some of them. We found people here are very helpful when I / we had some trouble, a surgeon in Osaka University Hospital giving me lift in the foot of May Mountain, a man accompanying me in the train on my first visit to Osaka-jo, a high school boy

guiding me to the station in Sapporo in the first evening during annual meeting, etc... From these experiences I know how friendly Japanese people are to foreigners. My daughter and wife also like Japan very much after spending twice summer holidays in Osaka. Clear air, clean environment, kind people, convenient facilities in public places, tasty food and huge temples are often the topics about Japan in our home now.

I would like to thank Sorai-san and his wife for entertaining me, together with Wang-san and his wife, a nice dinner in their home in the summer 2007. Miyazaki-san and his family offered me a chance to have a lunch in Sannomiya with them several days before I left Osaka, a short time but quickly becoming a good friend with his lovely younger daughter that I had to comfort her to stop tears before I left their home.

Thanks to Hosokawa-san and Kanbayashi-san, who helped me manage a lot matters.

I am indebted to you for your visits, to our invitations, to Liaocheng University and my home college in May, 2008 after the meeting held in Dalian, China. Your lectures let us know the history of calorimetric research in the center, and how interesting and important the calorimetry is. To our students your visits gave them an opportunity to communicate with a foreign professor and to have knowledge of the frontier of calorimetry study. Hopefully you could not feel too tired for this busy trip, one week, in China.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to you for management of my financial support in the two years. Also convey my thanks to your wife, for entertaining me, my daughter and my wife in your home. I wish your mother, your wife and you good health and all the best for the future of the Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics.

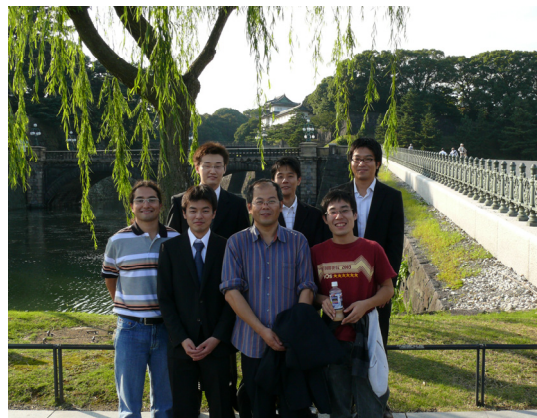
I hope I can meet you again in China or Japan someday. You and all my Japanese friends are always welcome to visit here in Taian.

With best wishes,

X.Z. LAN



Visit at Prof. Tan's office in Dalian



Students and myself outside Emperor's Palace