

From:

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To,

Prof. Akira Inaba
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Osaka University
Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

Dear Inaba San

It gives me great pleasure to write about my stay in your laboratory as a visiting researcher. First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for your kind invitation, due to which myself and my husband could spend an enjoyable and fruitful stay in Japan. I am also thankful to President of Osaka University for the kind acceptance of my visit at Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics.

This was my fourth visit in Japan. First two were in Tokyo and third one was in Osaka when I worked as a visiting Professor in Prof. T. Matsuo's laboratory from August 2000 to March 2001. It is a great privilege to spend seven months again in Osaka University especially in your Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics. It was nice to see the same place again for which I am grateful to you. I am very much impressed with the advanced experimental facilities in your laboratory especially the home made apparatus on which I worked. I am fortunate to work on the project about which I had only theoretical knowledge.

During my stay, I determined third derivative of Gibb's energy directly by experiment for some aqueous solutions using differential pressure perturbation calorimeter. I have acquired deep knowledge and experience through experimental study as well as discussions with you and Koga San who taught me a lot from such a long distance. When there was a change of new cells, I got the opportunity to learn how to install the cells and the precautions to be taken care of. I am familiar with the hard working nature of Japanese people but still, whenever I work with them, I am more and more impressed and off course learned more about the method of working. By working at your Center, I improved my working skill, for which I am thankful to you.

Apart from experiments, I also got opportunity to attend two International Conferences, which gave me chance to interact with other researchers in the field of thermodynamics and to present my work in these conferences.

I appreciate very much the atmosphere at Research Center where everyone was friendly and helpful. I also enjoyed welcome and farewell parties organized for me and my husband by your group. We both are always impressed by Japanese hospitality.

Besides research, I visited many scenic places in Japan and enjoyed Japanese food such as Sushi, Sashimi, Takoyaki etc. Japan is my favorite country and I feel quite at ease in Japan despite the language problem which is rather difficult to learn. It is amazing to see how Japan is advanced in terms of Science and Technology and yet how the old traditions are preserved. But most important, I like Japanese people. They are very kind, polite, sincere and of helping nature.

I am very much impressed by you who as Head of the Center take time from administrative work and other duties to perform experiments and to make and install the new cells of the calorimeter, on which I worked. Further, your efficiency to organize conferences was amazing. With all busy schedules, you took care of us and arranged our comfortable stay. Everything was done in a very smooth and systematic manner.

I am also thankful to other faculties of your center, Dr. Nagano, Dr. Miyazaki and Dr. Takajo, who helped me in every respect to make my stay comfortable. Whenever I had problem with computer and internet connections, Dr. Miyazaki and Dr. Takajo helped me a lot. I owe special thanks to your young and energetic M.Sc and Ph. D students: Suzuki San, Arai San, Kondo San, Yoshida San, Tani San, Takeda San and others, who were always ready to help me. Suzuki San helped me not only in Laboratory but also in our day to day life. We are thankful to him for taking us to dinner, which we will always remember. I am thankful to Yoshida San for collaborating during my stay. I enjoyed working with him. He was very quiet at the beginning but at last we had good rapport. I am very much impressed with his computer skills.

I am fortunate to meet other foreign researchers at your center, Dr Koga, Dr. Lan and Dr. Natalia Gorska. I was referring Dr. Koga's research papers since long and at your Center, I got an opportunity to work with him. He was very kind to explain everything in detail from the beginning. Even when he was in Canada, he helped me for my presentation in ISST. I learned a lot from him for which I am thankful to him and to you. I spent many weekends with Natalia. We visited many places in Japan together and had interesting discussions about research, Western and Indian cultures, religions, society and other topics. Lan San is very jolly person with whom no one can remain serious for long time. I enjoyed talking to him.

I also wish to thank the secretary Hosokawa San for helping me in administrative formalities.

Both my husband and I will fondly remember the wonderful evening with you and your wife Kiyoko San. We are thankful for the tasty Japanese food offered to us at your house, which we both liked very much. We have returned to India with unforgettable sweet memories.

We wish you, Kiyoko San and your mother, good health and all the best for future. I also wish Research Center for structural Thermodynamics a lot of scientific success.

I hope, we will meet again, may be in India. You and other members of the Center are most welcome to visit India and especially Rajkot.

With Best wishes

Shipra Baluja