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Dear Inaba-san,

Nearly two months has passed after I left Osaka this summer. It is a pleasure to recall my stay in the *Research Center for Structural Thermodynamics* from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>. I would like to take this chance to express my appreciation to you for helping me stay in Osaka University and attend ICCT 2010, ISST 2010.

This was the second time I came to Osaka University. In the first time I had worked here for two years and left in April last year. To me, that was an important period for my scientific career as well as my life, from which I can benefit much at the time being and in the future. This time in the first day afternoon when I walked on the quiet, familiar way to the center, the time seemed to had gone back last time and the days in Japan continued.

Without rest I began to prepare my oral presentation and poster for ICCT 2010 and ISST 2010. The oral presentation was about phase transitions of some organic liquids inside one-dimensional channels. This is my work in China. The poster would show the data of magnetic properties of some quasi-one dimensional molecule-based magnets, which was started to measure during my first stay. I would like especially to thank Miyazaki-san's work for not only this poster but all the presentations he gave about our experiments. He had spent a lot of time on measuring the samples and analyzing the data. Surely we will publish these good results in the days coming.

Just after everything was ready, I, together with Professor Shipra, Natalia and Suzuki-san, went to Tsukuba for ICCT 2010. That was the second time I visited this famous city. Three years ago I had come to the same site for *The 44<sup>th</sup> Japanese Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis*. As I had experienced before, the organizers of ICCT 2010 in Japan impressed me once more with the considerate, the pursuit of perfect Japanese way. I appreciate the Travel Grant Program that cancelled my registration fee, which made me more concentrate on scientific affairs. As the conference proceeded, I observed their efforts of not only making it run smoothly but arranging various recreational activities as musical performance, Japanese Tea Ceremony and sightseeing, etc. In the first day although as planned, the Emperor and Empress's attendance at the ICCT 2010 opening ceremony and mixing party afterwards was still a pleasant surprise to our foreigners. They had spent a long time there and shared this happy time with us. In the following days, my time was primarily spent on plenary lectures, presentations in different sections or posters. It was a good opportunity to communicate with researchers from other countries.

Furthermore I have a better knowledge of the progress in the field of calorimetry and thermal analysis by this conference. To my delight, I could meet Professor Tan, my supervisor in China, and some other professors from China in the conference.

In one day afternoon in Tsukuba I occasionally entered a Japanese Tea Ceremony, lead by an elderly lady who can speak nicely English. The ladies who served the ceremony offered each of us a sweet with a beautiful fish pattern inside and Matcha, the fine powdered tea in Japan. In another day, after lunch, we enjoyed a musical performance by Professor Saito, his wife and daughter. Later then Natalia and I joined the team of Professor White and her colleagues to visit JAXA and the lab of our friendly 'guide', Dr. Makoto Tachibana. There we saw the giant aerospace devices and high pressure equipments for synthesis of diamond, really amazing.

Every night in Tsukuba was also joyful. On one day, you invited us to enjoy a tasty fish barbeque. In another day, Professor Matsuo had spent a lot of time with me, Shipra and Natalia once again for a delicious fish dinner. In my mind now, ICCT 2010 is a big, successful international conference efficiently supported by the kindly organizers.

Although a bit tired by the hot days in Tsukuba, I felt pleased to continue to attend ISST 2010 in Toyonaka organized by this lab. Here I had a chance to know more researchers and their work. All the participants, I think, really enjoyed this smaller symposium.

After the two conferences we had several days for a rest with the university. Thanks to Suzuki-san's arrangement, I could have a dinner with Maruoka-san, Shimada-san and Hino-san together with Takajo-san, Arai-kun and Suzuki-san. Maruoka-san was still happy all the time, Hino-san a gentle disposition, Shimada-san a good organizer in the dinner.



Visit at Senso-ji temple in Tokyo with Natalia, Shipra and Hal. Photo from Natalia

I really enjoyed the welcome party and farewell tea time for me organized by Yoshida-kun. He and other students in the lab had used much time to go shopping and to prepare everything. Thanks again to Miyazaki-san for taking time to have a dinner with me and Suzuki-san before I left. I am thankful to Suzuki-san for often having lunch with me and a lot of discussions about scientific topics during my stay.

I am also happy to meet Professor Shipra and Natalia. We know very well each other after working together in the center.

Finally I would like to thank you for having a long talk with me in the last day afternoon.

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



Cooking Takoyaki in welcome party. Photo by Dr. Miyazaki



Farewell tea time with Professor Inaba. Photo by Dr. Miyazaki

With best wishes,

Xiaozheng LAN

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010