

外国人客員所員を経験して

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I visited ISSP Kashiwa Campus for three months, from early December 2011 to early March 2012, as a visiting professor at the International MegaGauss Science Laboratory. As soon as I arrived at Kashiwa, I had to attend a conference held in Kumamoto with all other group members including graduate students. It was a great chance to know each other quickly, especially going to “Onsen” all together after the conference. I am still missing scent of sulfur and formal dining in Jigoku Onsen.

My first impression on Kashiwa Campus was well organized services by staff members of the International Liaison Office to visiting scholars that made me to be able to live without discomfort from the beginning. ILO also gave us opportunities to attend various traditional Japanese events. Among them, Sumo wrestling held in Kokugikan was most interesting event for me because it was comparable to Korean traditional wrestling called Sirum. Japan and Korea are close countries and sometimes these two countries share similar cultures in a different way. Attending traditional events, I was able to understand that Japanese evolve new things under respecting traditional cultures.

Working in the laboratory was pleasure experiences. Though I spent quite long time in other pulsed magnetic field laboratory, destructive magnet experiments were new to me. During the magnetic pulse, the explosion sound terrified me in the beginning, but I was able to get used quickly. What impressing me while working in the laboratory was “collective intellect” of Japanese academia. Mostly, I worked alone, study alone and writing papers alone more than fifteen years. However, in Kashiwa, we had a group meeting on every Monday wherein entire group members including from graduate students to faculty members, solving and discussing current problems and presenting work progresses altogether. I felt the power and synergy of the collective intellect in there.

Sometimes laboratory members took me to Izakaya and I enjoyed various kinds of Sake from all over the country, every time. Recently, Japanese style Izakaya are getting popular in Korea. However, such places in Korea cannot compete with the original ones in Japan, not only the selections of Sake, but also the taste of Japanese foods. While writing this essay now, I would like to visit an Izakaya somewhere near the Kashiwa Station.

Since it was a short term visit, I have little memoirs to write something long. However, I was able to obtain huge amount of data from pulsed magnetic fields that make me still fighting to understand them.