

Meeting Report

19Th East Asia Joint Symposium on
Biochemical Research August 23-

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19th East Asia Joint Symposium on Biomedical Research was held at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Seoul National University in Korea. About 50 participants from Japan (IMSUT and the Institute of Virus Research, Kyoto University), Korea, China, and Taiwan got together at the meeting. Nine out of IMSUT's scientists and students presented their recent data. We stayed at HOAM Faculty House of Seoul National University; even though the name was "house", it was almost a nice hotel. Because the conference place was about 20 minutes' ride by bus from the hotel, we were packed in the meeting over 10 hours per day.

In the symposium, sessions were divided into the parts of signal transduction, RNA biology, Immunology, Virology, cytoskeleton and development. Because my major is Immunology, I tend to attend the conference related to immunology; therefore, it was very precious chance for me to learn the recent progress in the various scientific fields by the leading scientists. It's also very exciting to imagine whether I could approach the experimental skills or materials utilized in each presentation.

In the young investigator presentation and poster session, I presented a part of recently published data showing the involvement of mast cells in the inflammatory bowel disease. In the poster session, Dr. Ming-Jiun Yu from Taiwan asked me many critical questions and some points were hard to convince him without support of Dr. Osamu Takeuchi in Kyoto University. Like my experience, hot discussion might be carried out in each poster.

I practically used a little Korean language learned from my younger sister, who very much loves South Korean pop culture, and some information obtained from Korean TV drama to communicate with young Korean scientists. The effort was worthwhile to develop new links of communication with more scientists. Because I feel the research cannot be accomplished without the support of others, it would be wonderful if the encounter in the symposium become

To Kurashima-san
Congratulations on recent publication!

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collaboration in the future.

In the last day, I unexpectedly received "Outstanding Young Scientist 1st Place TOMY Award". This award has made me reaffirm my determination that I must make further efforts for the research activities.

In the end, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the travelling-members in IMSUT that I have caused so many worries because of my poor physical condition during the stay in Korea. Additionally, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the organized committee members and administrators for organizing this symposium.

