

For the balmy junction between rainy season and high summer I spent a sometimes sweltering, sometimes drenched, always exciting month as a JSPS short-term fellow in the group of Prof. Fumiyasu Oba, at the Materials and Structures department of Tokyo Institute of Technology

The research I carried out was relating to computational design of semiconductor heterojunctions. The atmosphere I found in the host institution was perfect for performing a contained and considered piece of work. I found the combination of the attention to detail and deep rigour of the Japanese group with the more cut-and-thrust applications driven approach of my home group in Bath really made for a productive mix. The project has resulted in a piece of software for predicting stable electronically compatible combinations of materials, based on simple input properties and should be of great use in the design of functional interfaces. In an era where Herbert Kromer's famous pronouncement – "the interface is the device" – has never been more true, we hope that this code will be appreciated by researchers from photovoltaics to display technology and beyond, anywhere device design is important. The research has been written up into a manuscript and we hope to submit very soon, after which the code will be made publically available.

. For the duration of my month I was working in the leafy Suzukakedai campus, just south of Tokyo in Yokohama. A wonderful spacious, modern campus with its own forested mountain where one could wander for some shade and quiet thinking time. For anyone who appreciates a good ramen or katsu curry the tasty and affordable canteen provided a lively atmosphere to discuss science, politics and life in general between satisfying slurps of noodles and broth. This social and physical environment, as well as the intellectual environment helped to make the stay in Tokyo an amazing experience on both a personal and professional level and something I could not recommend enough to my colleagues and peers.

