

Report on Invitation Fellowship by Prof Paul Chung, Loughborough University

Period: 25th August to 8th September 2012

Host: Prof Kazuhiko Suzuki

Department: Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

Institution: Okayama University

Arrangement

I arrived in Okayama in the evening of the 25th August. Prof Kazuhiko Suzuki, my host, kindly picked me up from the airport and took me to my hotel. He arranged for me to visit a number of institutions in different parts of Japan during the Fellowship period and he accompanied me on every visit. He is a great host and colleague.

Business

During my first week I gave a talk to Prof Suzuki's research team and listened to talks given by students who worked in his lab. It was a good experience for me to get an overview of the research projects that they were engaged in and for them to present their work in English. I also spent time speaking to each research group separately and looking at their software demonstration. This allowed me to give them very specific feedback on their work and they appreciated that. In that week I also gave a keynote address at the STSS 2012 (Symposium on Socially and Technically Symbiotic Systems) and visited Prof Tsuge at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Kyushu University. Again, I gave a talk to his research team and provided feedback on his students' presentations.

I moved from Okayama to Tokyo in the second week and visited four different organisations: Toyohashi University (Prof Rafael Batres), Yokohama National University (Prof Miyake), the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Dr Wada) and Techno Management Solutions Ltd (Mr Koji Kawamura and Prof Yuji Naka). All these meetings provided a useful exchange of ideas.

Follow-up activities

The immediate follow-up activities after the visit include:

- 1) Prof Suzuki and I are organising a special session on Decision Support for Safety-related Systems for the IEA/AIE 2013 International Conference to be held in Amsterdam.
- 2) A delegation of three led by Prof Mieko Kumasaki from Yokohama University paid a return visit to Loughborough University on 13th September.

Culture

I really enjoyed knowing more about Japan and to experience its fascinating culture and food. At the STSS 2012 Banquet there was a performance of traditional Japanese dances, which was very enjoyable to watch. Japanese food is very tasty and healthy. As I had to travel quite a lot between cities, I was amazed by the punctuality of the trains; everything seemed to work so smoothly.