

JSPS REPORT

Host institution: World Premier International Center (WPI) for Materials Nanoarchitectonics (MANA) at the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), 1-1 Namiki, Tsukuba, 305-0044 Ibaraki, Japan

Host researcher: Dr. Jonathan P. Hill

Fellowship period: November 2011 to October 2013

Being awarded a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (long-term), I was offered the opportunity to conduct my research from November 2011 to October 2013 at the World Premier International (WPI) Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics (MANA), National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, under the guidance of Dr. Jonathan P. Hill, subgroup leader under Prof. Dr. Katsuhiko Ariga. This subgroup studies molecular self-assembly through intermolecular interactions to adjust the properties of materials at a macroscopic level and is especially interested in the characteristics of oxoporphyrinogens and pyrazinacenes-based materials.

The setup of the lab allowed for, next to contributing to the ongoing research in the group, elaborating my personal research project and interests supported by a brought network of collaborations within and outside Japan. The international character of the institute offers an outstanding opportunity for foreign researchers to conduct their research without the direct need of the Japanese language. The institute offers, however, various integration and culture classes and a Japanese language course to assure a smooth integration into the Japanese society.

Tsukuba, a town about 50km north-east from Tokyo, is built for and around the university and science institutes. As a foreign researcher one has the option to live in the international residence or to choose the complete Japan experience and look for housing among the Japanese inhabitants, allowing everybody to integrate at their own pace. Through its international character Tsukuba offers a unique setting to meet new people from all over the world. In addition, the fast and direct access to Tokyo allows for the exploration of world's biggest city and the rest of Japan in all its glory. A direct bus and train line gives access to and from Narita and Hanada airport, which is convenient when going for an international conference or when having family or friends over.

If you have any questions about the research institute, the research group or living in Tsukuba, feel free to contact me on w.g.van-rossom@soton.ac.uk.



Tsukuba's location in Japan



Kabuki show



Rice harvesting