

21st Century COE International
“International COE of Flow Dynamics”
Experience Note

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For a month I have been working at the Molecular Heat Transfer Laboratory, in the Non-Continuum Flow and Heat Transfer Division under the supervision of Prof. Taku Ohara. The main purpose of this visit was to set up a partnership between our laboratories around the theme “Tribology at a molecular scale”.

I was welcomed by Prof. Ohara’s team at my very first step to Sendai. Everything has been prepared for me to have an easy and efficient start here in the laboratory. All the professors, assistants and PhD students I met have been very patient with me considering the fact that I did not speak at all Japanese. I do thank them once again for that.

For daily life, everything has been very well conducted too. It shows the high professionalism of the 21st Century COE International staff. The accommodation, in city centre, was perfectly located (20 minutes from the train station, 15 minutes from the university, all on foot) and I did not meet any problem concerning the neighbourhood, the food supply or anything related to a new life in an unknown city. The echoes I had from past experience in Sendai were simply right: the town itself is just wonderful. I really enjoy the quietness and secured-feeling you can have here when wandering in the streets. The mix between high buildings, parks and cultural places puts forward a real effort to associate dynamism with entertainment. To make it even more appealing, the surroundings of the city (Matsushima, Zao Mountain, etc.) are beautiful havens of peace for a quick urban escape. This has been a great opportunity for me to discover a tiny bit of the Japanese culture and natural landscapes.

I am very grateful to all the people I have met during this too short month: Prof. Ohara for his dynamism and professionalism, all his team for their good advices and nice restaurant addresses and all the 21st Century COE International staff (Ms. Konohara particularly). They all made it so easy for me in all aspects of life. I do recommend this experience to students and researchers from a professional point of view as well as from a personal point of one.

