



My first year at IMS

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It has almost been one year and a half since I started working at the Institute for Molecular Science (IMS) in April of 2017 as an assistant professor in the group of Prof. Akihito Ishizaki in the Department of Theoretical and Computational Molecular Science. Before moving to IMS, I had spent a total of 9 years studying at the University of Tokyo and 3 years working as a postdoctoral researcher at RIKEN, a national institute of research near Tokyo. Since I studied theoretical physics during my doctoral course as well as in my postdoc, I had actually not been so familiar with the world of molecules, which is the main research theme of IMS. However, with the help of Prof. Ishizaki and other members of the group, I have learned a lot about molecular science and readily started to do new research on molecular systems. In particular, I have successfully proposed novel ways to control the quantum dynamics of molecular systems by using fundamental physics principles. I really appreciate the freedom of thinking within the group, which might have been the seed of many ideas that later led to my research results.

Besides my work at IMS, I have also been able to have valuable experiences in my new life at Okazaki and Nagoya areas in Aichi prefecture. This description may not be necessary. Because of my wife's workplace, we decided to live at a place in between Okazaki and Nagoya. Compared to

Tokyo where I had stayed for almost all time before moving to IMS, Okazaki and Nagoya are much more tranquil, which help me concentrate better on my research. The place I am living, Arimatsu, is a nice area which is famous for Japanese old buildings and fabric dyeing craft. My daily commute from home to the workplace also becomes much more comfortable than before as I no longer have to worry about extremely crowded trains as in Tokyo. In the weekend, we sometimes go sightseeing as public transportation in the Nagoya area is quite convenient. In particular, my wife likes Okazaki park and Okazaki castle very much, especially in the autumn where we can see the beautiful color changing leaves. We hope that we will continue to have unforgettable memories during our stay here at IMS.