ICR News 2005

The Newly Constructed "Uji Research Building," Home for the Bioinformatics Center

Director of Bioinformatics Center:
Prof KANEHISA, Minoru

Uji Research Building

GenomeNet Server on the first floor

The Bioinformatics Center moved into the new Uji Research Building in November, 2004. Being involved in the 21st Century COE Program, "Knowledge Information Infrastructure for Genome Science" with the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a lecture room installed with a distance-learning system and a computer room for laboratory training are set up on the second floor for this and other projects. The Bioinformatics Center provides the KEGG database resource as well as GenomeNet, which is the most prominent bio-data service in Japan. The KEGG development room, the GenomeNet operating room, and the supercomputer laboratory maintenance room are located on the second floor. The supercomputer system for the Institute for Chemical Research, the central computer system, and the servers for the Bioinformatics Center are on the first floor in the main computer room. Computing and database services for all of Kyoto University as well as the GenomeNet services are provided by these machines.

Lecture room with a distance-learning system

Speech addressed by President Oike of Kyoto University, at the completion ceremony of the Uji Research Building.

http://www.bic.kyoto-u.ac.jp/

“Joint Project of Chemical Synthesis Core Research Institutions”

Research and Education Funding for Inter-University Research Project, MEXT, Japan (2005–2010)

■ Director of IRCELS: Prof OZAWA, Fumiyuki

Organization

Elements Chemistry Research Unit:
Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University

Functional Molecular Chemistry Research Unit:
Research Center for Materials Science, Nagoya University

Assembled Molecular Chemistry Research Unit:
Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University

Opening Ceremony of the Joint Project (30 June 2005, at Nagoya University)

■ http://www.kuicr.kyoto-u.ac.jp/IRCELS/index_e.html

Future advances in chemical synthesis will be fueled by a strong cooperative and collaborative research program. Our society expects innovative and highly functional materials. In order to respond to these demands, the education and training of young scientists would also benefit from a research environment that exposes them to different branches of materials chemistry. The purpose of this joint research program is to develop novel synthetic chemistry for production of new materials through the intimate cooperation of three highly recognized research groups. Examples of new materials and technologies that could arise from this research include: supramolecular organic electronics devices, metallic oxide nanoparticles, hydrogen production catalysts, electronic display device materials driven by structural control macromolecules, and hetero-atom conjugated materials with novel optical and electronic properties. These novel materials are expected to contribute to nano-science and materials science.

A Novel Style of “Periodic Table of the Elements” Has Been Made in Cooperation with the MEXT

■ Prof YOKO, Toshinobu

“Periodic Table of the Elements” that has long been thought to be boring and uninteresting has been renewed by Prof. Tamao, a former director of ICR, and his colleagues, who worry about the recent tendency of Japanese young people’s losing interest in science, on the basis of the following unique concepts;

- Decoration of the wall of a living room at home with a beautiful sheet of “Periodic Table of the Elements”.
- Conversation with a family about scientific topics with a family looking at such a quite obvious beautiful lofty sheet.
- Memorization of the catch phrase that “nature, a life, and our body all are written by the symbol of an element”.
- Recognition of the benefit of science and technology in everyday life from childhood.

It is eagerly desired that the children who get interested in science and aim at being a chemist increase rapidly in number due to the “Prof. Tamao’s Periodic Table of the Elements”.

■ http://stw.mext.go.jp/